
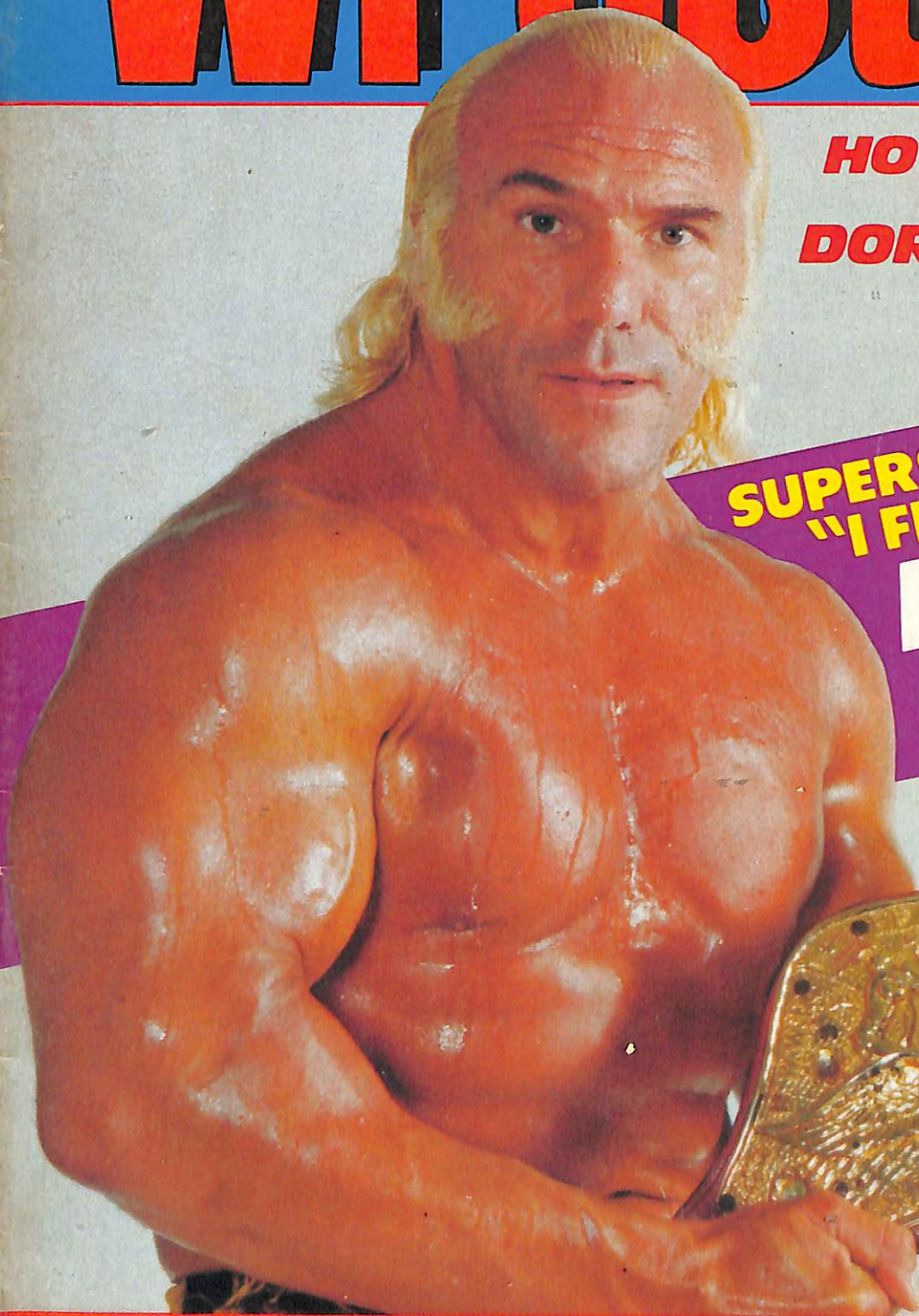




**BOB BACKLUND'S 10 MOST WANTED LIST**

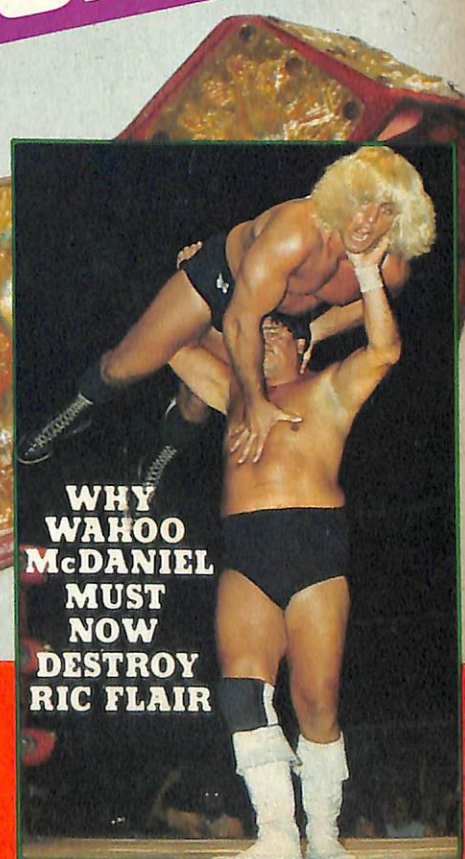
December 1977  
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# THE **Wrestler**



**HOW THE SHEIK  
SAVED  
DORY FUNK JR'S  
CAREER**

**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM:  
"I FEAR NO MAN...  
EXCEPT  
ONE!"**



**WHY  
WAHOO  
McDANIEL  
MUST  
NOW  
DESTROY  
RIC FLAIR**

**HARLEY RACE'S  
SHAMEFUL MATCH AGAINST  
ROCKY JOHNSON**





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## BODYBUILDING COURSE —

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**YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL  
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HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED

"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles." J. Johnson

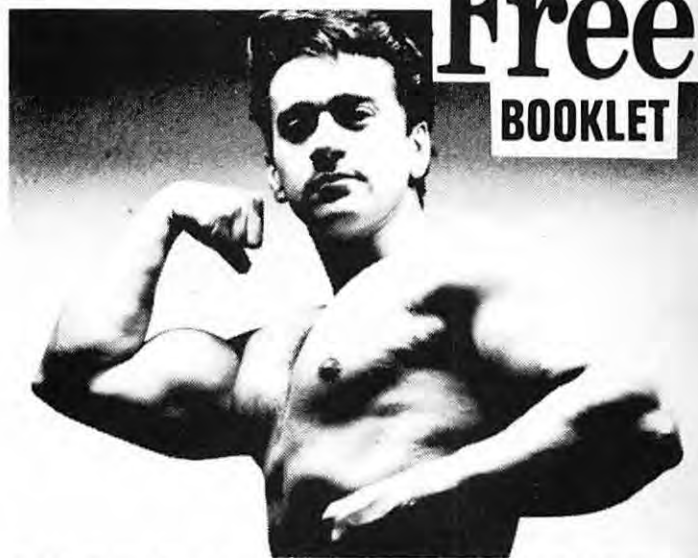
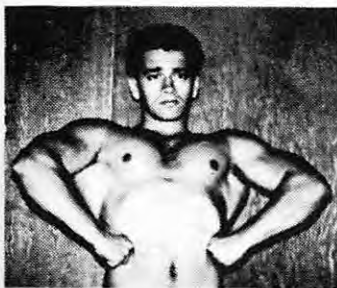
"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 45 days. I am truly amazed, I'm going to be dynamite on the beach." B. Abbott

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1½" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!" D. Roberts

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscle. It's amazing I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day." P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!" M. Robinson



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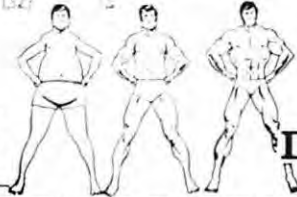
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# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

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COVER PHOTOS BY WALT KOWALSKI & BILL JANOSIK

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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—BOB BACKLUND
- 3—MIL MASCARAS
- 4—PETER MAIVIA
- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—KEN PATERA
- 7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 8—GEORGE STEELE
- 9—TONY GAREA
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—RAY STEVENS
- 2—BILLY ROBINSON
- 3—VERNE GAGNE
- 4—LARRY HENNIG
- 5—GREG GAGNE
- 6—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 7—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 8—JIM BRUNZELL
- 9—SUPER DESTROYER
- 10—ANGELO MOSCA

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—BOB BACKLUND
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—DINO BRAVO
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—MR. WRESTLING II
- 10—TONY GAREA

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—JACK BRISCO
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 4—TERRY FUNK
- 5—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 6—DORY FUNK JR.
- 7—PAUL JONES
- 8—DICK SLATER
- 9—PAT PATTERSON
- 10—JIMMY SNUKA

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 2—MR. FUJI & PROFESSOR TANAKA
- 3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 4—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 5—PAT PATTERSON & IVAN KOLOFF
- 6—BOBBY DUNCUM & BLACKJACK LANZA
- 7—RIC FLAIR & GREG VALENTINE
- 8—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 9—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 10—BRUISER & CRUSHER

## MOST HATED WRESTLERS

- 1—IVAN KOLOFF
- 2—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 3—ERNIE LADD
- 4—RIC FLAIR
- 5—THE SHEIK
- 6—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 7—DICK SLATER
- 8—GEORGE STEELE
- 9—KEN PATERA
- 10—STAN HANSEN



BOB BACKLUND



BILLY ROBINSON



ROCKY JOHNSON



PAT PATTERSON



# HOW MY WIFE AND I TEAMED UP TO BECOME MILLIONAIRES IN FIVE YEARS

WITH AN EIGHTH GRADE EDUCATION  
AND \$500.00 BORROWED MONEY, I  
RETIRED IN LESS THAN FIVE YEARS WITH  
A WEALTH OF OVER A MILLION DOLLARS.

In my system that I'll send you on certain good deals that you bring me. I'll be your partner, guide you and offer financial assistance. For instance, some of you may be short of capital to undertake that big deal. I'll come in with you. Yes, I'll use my own money and financial backing to help you handle that really good deal using my system, if the deal is right. We can then be assured of a profit. I intend to operate on a nationwide basis, so location will not be a problem. I'll be interested in considering real estate throughout the country.

## HOW DID WE START - IT WAS EASY.

I am quite certain that with my education and background I am not smarter than you and yet it was so easy. In fact I couldn't believe how easy it was. Let me start at the beginning of our success story.

In 1967 at the age of 38 on two hundred dollars per week selling appliances. I was struggling to provide for a family of six. Just trying to pay the bills and surviving was a struggle. Needless to say I was heavily in debt.

## WE DISCOVERED OUR METHOD

We found our key to success and security in the real estate business - a system that my wife Dianne and I perfected. After using this method for six months, Dianne, working alone, had earned more than \$68,000. It was then that I left my appliance sales job and joined Dianne. We worked fulltime to develop our new career in real estate. We knew that this newfound success would work time and time again.

## WERE WE SUCCESSFUL - YES

After applying our method, in only five years time we were able to semi-retire. By 1972, we had a cash flow of over \$100,000 a year from our successful system. We bought a beautiful new home in a prestigious suburb of Houston that's close to our 345-acre ranch where we raise registered cattle and quarter-horses.

We also found that we could operate our business venture in our spare time, without a real estate license, and in our home.

## TWO OF OUR DEALS

Here are two examples of how well our system worked for us:

In 1968, using the same method, we put up a \$1,000 deposit on a real estate investment. We had 120 days to finalize the transaction. In only 45 days, we sold it, earning a profit of \$98,000. We had made 98 times the \$1,000 we had initially invested in earnest money.

In 1972, using the same system, we put up a \$5,000 deposit on an investment opportunity. We sold our contract almost immediately for \$380,000 profit, with a capital gain. (We have the closing statements to back our figures.)

## OUR METHOD IS SIMPLE

It can be used by anyone, anywhere, whether you are single or married. Our system is real, it is workable, and it will work for you. What is our system? It is a unique discovery of how to buy real estate properties below wholesale, income property, raw land, subdivisions, acreage, home sites, or that week-end retreat. Yes, I can show and direct you how to locate the type of real estate properties that you are interested in buying. Buy with as little as \$100 down, and at bargain prices so that you can immediately turn the purchase into ready cash. Sounds too good to be true. I guarantee that you or anyone following our system can make a financial success. Maybe you won't make a million dollars, but you can certainly improve your financial condition. Double or even triple it, in a matter of only a few short months.

## NATIONWIDE SYSTEM

Our method is now nationwide. We are getting letters, telephone calls daily. A California man wrote, "Jim, I bought 15-16 different books on how to make money, as far as I am concerned the author is the only one that made money. Your method is great. It is simple. It is working for my wife and I. You may use our name in your ad if you so desire."

As our success grew from word of mouth to a front page editorial on the business section of the Houston Post, I was besieged by friends who wanted to know how they could duplicate my success.

I directed a doctor friend and his group on two sales using our system. Their gross profit was \$20,000 on the first transaction and over \$100,000 on the second. Their total money investment was under \$2,500.00 for both transactions!

## YOU AND I BOTH WILL PROFIT

You are probably asking why I am willing to share my secret of success with you. It is physically impossible for any person to investigate and follow up on all of the land opportunities and investments which I describe in my book. These opportunities exist in every town, city, county and state in America. The fact is that I have found a method which assures success. You can become my partner by following this system. The end result: we both profit and make money.

## REFERENCES

*I am an active member of the Rosenberg-Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Chamber of Commerce, and a respected member of my business community.*

If you prefer, send a check post-dated for 30 days, this will completely eliminate any risk on your part. I want you to consider my method and see how it will work for you.

## 30 DAY FREE TRIAL

VS-12

JIM STEPHENSON

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Jim, I am sending you \$10.00 for your system with no risk on my part. If your system does not prove to be a money-maker like you say, then I'll send it back to you within 30 days. There will be no obligation on my part, and you will give me a complete refund of \$10.00. (Allow approximately 2 to 3 weeks for delivery.) If you have any questions call me at 713/342-6928.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



DIANNE STEPHENSON, HOUSEWIFE  
AND MOTHER, MADE \$68,000.00 IN  
HER FIRST SIX MONTHS

## YOUR FINANCIAL SECURITY

By using my method you will be surprised how easy it is to make money, and be financially secure.

Here are a few things that my system will tell you.

1. Buy income property at half price.
2. Buy land or acreage at fifty cents on the dollar.
3. Begin without cash.
4. How to sell your earnest money contract.
5. Be self employed and your own boss in six months or less.
6. Immediate capital gain.
7. I'll be your partner.

When you send a check for \$10.00 you will receive our entire system. I guarantee that you will be completely satisfied. If for any reason you should change your mind, let me know and I will send back your \$10.00. No questions, no hassle - just the refund.

As you use our system, your wealth and ability will grow. But you may want or need additional advice on some of your business deals and propositions.

Whenever you need me. Contact me by phone or by letter to find out more about this service.

Do it now. A successful and secure future is ahead of you.



# YOU ASKED US

**Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 38, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!**



The Mongolian Stomper viciously pummels Chief Peter Maivia during the days when Peter was the Texas Champion. Peter says Stomper was his toughest opponent in the NWA areas. Nick Bockwinkel rates as Peter's toughest AWA test while George Steele has been his biggest WWF problem.

**Q:** Since Peter Maivia has wrestled in NWA, AWA, and the WWF, which area does he feel provided him with his toughest competition—Bill Farrell, Pittsfield, Mass.

**A:** "I have learned tough opponents exist no matter where the competition is,"

says Peter. "I believe that in the NWA, Mongolian Stomper can be singled out as my toughest opponent. In the AWA, champion Nick Bockwinkel provided me with my toughest test. And in the WWF, George Steele has given me the most trouble."

**Q:** How many of your wrestling magazines does the average wrestler have?—John Zimny, Bronx, N.Y.

**A:** We recently took a survey and obtained these results: Superstar Graham has 50 of our magazines—only because they have pictures of him on the cover or inside . . . Mil Mascaras has over 500 magazines, because, as Mil explains, "INSIDE WRESTLING and THE WRESTLER help keep me up to date about what's going on in our great sport." . . . George Steele



When George "The Animal" Steele gets hungry, he eats copies of THE WRESTLER and INSIDE WRESTLING—his favorites!

had 25 magazines. Now he has 4. It seems that when "The Animal" gets the urge, he eats the issues!

\*\*\*

**Q:** Why did the NWA ever permit Roddy Piper to get a referee's license? Everyone knows the rulebreaking Piper is not a fair referee!—Howard Meyerson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**A:** Piper passed all the required tests to become a referee. The NWA could not turn Piper down because of his questionable ring tactics. The tests for refereeing are what they use as

(Continued on page 44)



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And Suddenly You Are Face-To-Face With A MUGGER...

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IT'S ALMOST TOO GOOD  
TO BE TRUE!**

Do not confuse "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra™" with any self-protection device or weapon you have ever seen, read or heard about **BECAUSE IT'S A NEW INVENTION**! In action, "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra™" is **SO EFFEC-**

**TIVE**, it has been granted United States PATENT No. 3,554,546, one of the **MOST VALUABLE PATENTS** of its kind **EVER Officially Issued** by the **GOVERNMENT Of The UNITED STATES!**



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OF LIFESAVING POWER  
AT YOUR COMMAND**

"Kiyoga—The Steel Cobra™" is AN **AUTOMATIC, MAGNETICALLY-TRIGGERED STEEL WHIP** that is armed with a heavy caliber **STRIKING TIP**! When every second **COUNTS**, this **INSTANT ACTION** feature **FREES YOU** from the need to first locate a pushbutton trigger in order to fire it at your attacker!

Because it "goes off" by human **REFLEX-ACTION ALONE**, it **ALWAYS WORKS** when needed! Only **7 1/4"** when closed it is completely **HIDDEN** by your hand! No one can know that **YOU ARE SECRETLY ARMED TO THE TEETH!**

If you come **UNDER ATTACK** the high-tension steel-coils **INSTANTLY LASH OUT** in a surprise **COUNTER-ATTACK**! Firing from its nesting place inside the barrel, a **FULL 17"** of **TEMPERED STEEL STRIKES**

**DOWN YOUR ASSAILANT** with the **FORCE** of a **DEADLY COBRA**! Mere **FLESH AND BLOOD** cannot **STAND-UP** to the **EXCRUCIATING PAIN** that follows no matter **WHERE** the steel coils make contact—even through a **LEATHER jacket**! A blow directed at the head or jaw of the attacker can easily **KNOCK HIM OUT COLD**! Best of all, "Kiyoga™" is **SO EASY** to handle, it can be **SAFELY USED** by either **MEN** or **WOMEN** of ANY age!

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NO-RISK  
90-DAY  
FREE  
TRIAL!**

Be one of the **FIRST** to get the **FULL-TIME PROTECTION** of "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra™" without risking **one red cent**! Send only \$19.95 for each "KIYOGA" ordered (we'll pay the postage.) When you receive it, try it out on the trunk of a tree (the bark will splinter and fly with such **FORCE** it can be dangerous, so wear goggles to protect your eyes). If you live in the city, test it on a phone book and count the number of pages **DENTED** right **THROUGH** the cover (you will penetrate 60 pages!) And don't worry about damaging it! "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra™" is precision-machined like a fine gun, and so **WELL MADE** it will last a **LIFETIME**! Best of all, it is entirely self-contained and uses **NO** explosives, gas or electricity so you will **NEVER** buy batteries, cartridges, re-loads or anything else—**EVER**! When you curl your fingers around "KIYOGA'S" sure-grip crackle finish and test the "heft" and blazing action at your fingertips, you'll **KNOW** that here **AT LAST** is the **PROTECTOR** that you have always prayed for—for yourself and your loved ones! **UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED** to live up to **EVERY CLAIM** in this ad, you **MUST** be completely satisfied or send it back within 90-days for a **FULL REFUND**—no questions asked!

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200 Fifth Avenue—New York, N.Y. 10010

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# CORRESPONDENTS Reports

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The Super Destroyer's identity was almost revealed when Crusher (above) came close to unmasking him.

**ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—Correspondent: Bill Kolstad**—The St. Paul Auditorium thrilled to the great match between Crusher and Super Destroyer. This no-disqualification donneybrook saw some of the wildest action in wrestling history. After the advantage was traded back and

forth, Crusher managed to overwhelm the masked grappler. Fans almost had the chance to see the face of Super Destroyer when Crusher managed to get his foe's mask half off. Only the help of Super Destroyer's manager, Lord Al Hays, allowed the masked wrestler to escape back to the dressing room with his identity still a mystery.

In other action, Bobby Duncum and Blackjack Lanza illegally upset Billy Robinson and Bob Backlund, much to the fans' chagrin... Steve Olsonowski turned back Angelo Mosca on a disqualification... Jim Brunzell triumphed over Roger Kirby... Jan Nelson and Chris Markoff battled to a standstill.

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—Correspondent: Andy Juhl**—Harley Race was challenged by the famous Don Leo Jonathan for the NWA title. In the two-out-of-three fall match, each had split one fall and the champion's title hung in the balance. As soon as the third stanza started, Jonathan darted out of his corner and began a vicious attack, dropkicking Race. Harley fled from the ring, looking for safety. Don Leo followed right behind. He smashed a ringside chair over Race's head. The battle outside the ropes became more and more furious. As all this was happening, the referee was counting them both out. Don Leo Jonathan's title dreams vanished. Race fled to his dressing room a much defeated but still-crowned



In a brilliant display of wrestling, Tony Garea locks up the arm of WWWF champion Superstar Graham. Tony almost captured Graham's title in a wild and wooly match in Uniondale, New York.

champion.

In other action, Buddy Rose was disqualified against Jimmy Snuka... Jonathan Boyd and Moondog Mayne lost one to Sam Oliver Bass and Handsome John Anson.

**UNIONDALE, NEW YORK—Correspondent: Robert Booth**—Thousands of people jammed the Nassau Coliseum to see Tony Garea wrestle Superstar Graham for the WWWF championship. Early in the battle, Garea held the advantage, using armlocks to weaken Graham. Graham turned things around and locked Tony in a vise-like bearhug. The champion squeezed with all his power, but the game challenger refused to quit. At the 19 minute mark, Graham let loose with a series of devastatingly illegal tactics that led to Tony's downfall just 58 seconds later.

In other action, Ivan Putski scored one over a disqualified Ken Patera... Peter Maivia and Stan Stasiak were both disqualified in their brawl... Larry Zbyszko took the measure of Rocky Tamayo.

(Continued on page 46)



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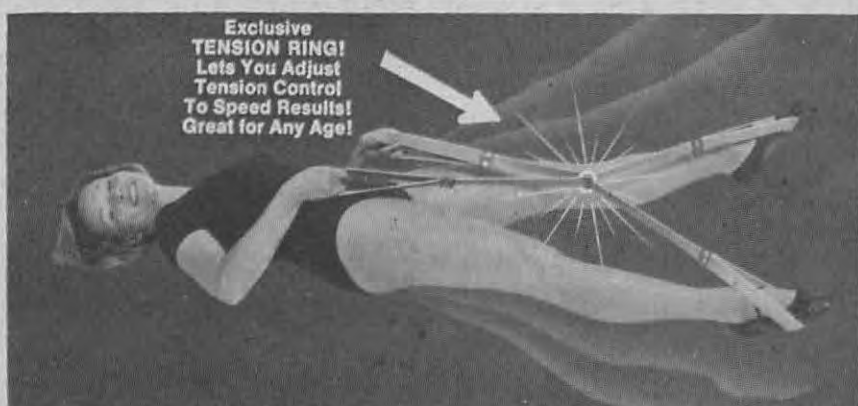
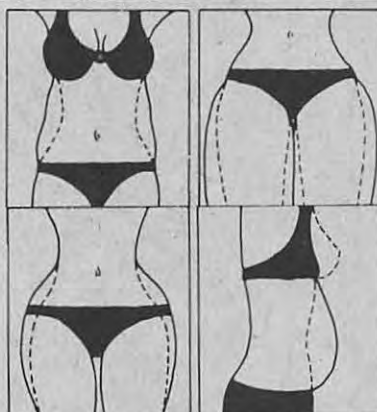
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

**D**USTY RHODES was in a predicament. His tag team partner had missed airplane connections and could not join him in their scheduled battle against NWA tag team champions Ole and Gene Anderson. The promoter informed Dusty that he could substitute any other wrestler in the arena in place of his original partner. Jack Brisco, Tony Atlas, Dino Bravo and several other scientific wrestlers came into the ring and offered their services to Dusty.

Suddenly, to everyone's surprise, the notorious Dick Slater came to Dusty and said he wanted to team with him! Making matters even more shocking, Rhodes sent every wrestler but Slater back to the dressing room! The huge crowd demanded an immediate explanation. Dusty grabbed the ring microphone and spoke: "I need a good roughhouse 'rassler' as my partner against those turkeys, the Anderson Brothers. This kid, Dickie Slater, is some mean hellraiser. I know because I helped train him during his rookie years!

"I know Dickie's style, and I am sure it will work perfectly with mine! The Dream wants you to trust Dickie as my partner. We



The "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes gives Tank Patton a taste of his own rulebreaking medicine. Fans of Rhodes are stunned that Dusty has announced he is teaming with a known rulebreaker—Dick Slater—in matches against the Anderson Brothers. How long will this strange alliance last?

both want the tag team belts taken away from those Andersons, and daddy, we will do it!" Dusty and Dick took less than 20 minutes to destroy the Andersons—but they did not win the title. When it was announced that Slater was substituting for Dusty's original partner, contracts for the title match became void which made

the match an immediate non-title affair.

The current holder of the American heavyweight title, Big John Studd, has taken to entering the ring, donning a red, white, and blue mask, and announcing "I want to be known as Captain U.S.A. I am a great American hero and deserve to be treated as





Houston promoter Paul Boesch (above) recently celebrated his 45th anniversary in professional wrestling. Paul's first taste of wrestling came in 1932 when he wrestled in Staten Island, N.Y.!

one." By the way, Studd and Bull Ramos are the new owners of the Texas tag team title... The Golden Terror is a fearsome new Lou Albano protege... Pedro Morales has made his fans very proud of him. The Puerto Rican star just won the Florida television title from Pat Patterson... Paul Jones unmasked the masked Superstar—but before anyone could get a good look at his face, Superstar's manager, Boris Malenko, threw him a towel to cover his face as he fled from the ring... Congratulations to Houston promoter Paul Boesch. On October 21 Paul celebrated his 45th anniversary in the wrestling profession! A true credit to the game, Paul's very first introduction to the sport came in 1932 in Staten Island, New York. He made his ring debut against rough Benny Ginsberg!... Look for even bigger things from Mid-Atlantic TV champion Rick Steamboat. Experts predict this youngster will become NWA champion by 1980.



Greg Valentine has invented a new hold. He used it in a recent match against Wahoo McDaniel. As a result, Wahoo was hospitalized with a broken ankle. "The commissions got their wish," says Greg. "I have stopped using my flying skullcrusher. Now I have invented a new hold that can cripple. I guess they'll want me to stop using this hold too!"... Mr. Wrestling II was seriously injured by Korean giant Pak Song. As the masked man was being presented with an award, Song and manager Rock Hunter entered the ring and broke the trophy over Wrestling II's back and neck. He sustained several injuries and had to be hospitalized.

Crusher wants to fight the Super Destroyer in a dark alley. "I wanna good ol' fashioned street brawl with that creep!" says Crusher... Verne Gagne substituted for son Greg as Jim Brunzell's partner during several recent tag team matches. Greg was sidelined with

*(Continued on page 48)*

Big John Studd (above) grabs the microphone and announces that he wants fans to call him "Captain U.S.A." The popular Mr. Wrestling II (below) is in the hospital due to injuries received when Pak Song and manager Rock Hunter sneak-attacked him.



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X her favorite. Likes  
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**CAROLE LEONE (11)**  
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Jones her favorite.  
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Dundee his favorite.  
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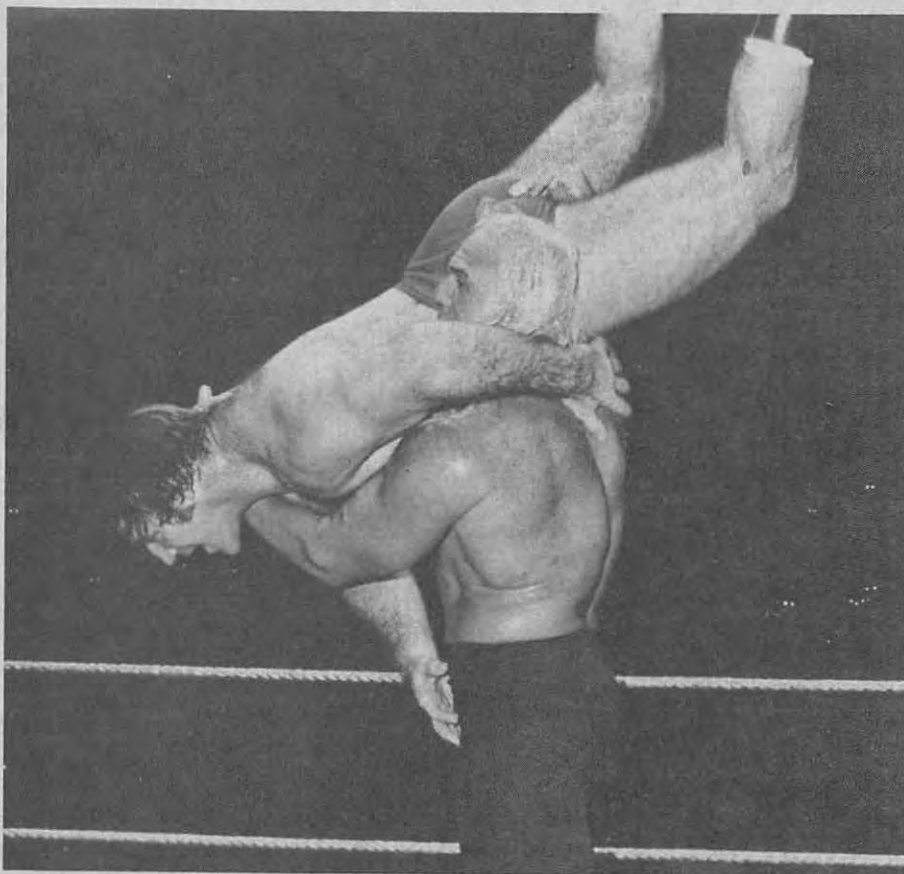
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## WORK FOR HONESTY

I have just finished reading your story, "If Bruno Can't Take the Title from Superstar Graham, Who Can?" (October 1977). This is silly. There are plenty of guys in the WWWF who can take that title. How about men like Ivan Putski, Bob

Backlund, and of course my favorite, Peter Maivia.

I like Superstar Graham as a bad guy, but certainly not as a champion. This man is insane, and should be stripped of the title.

TAFT NOBLES JR.  
 Tyler, Tex.

## IT CANNOT BE!

I've enjoyed reading your magazine a lot, but I just had to write to you about one of your stories, "Are the Referees Protecting Tony Garea?" (October 1977).

I have seen Tony on television and in person, and all I have to



say is that there is no way that Tony would pay off a referee. He is not like some other wrestlers I can name who do such things. Here is one person who knows this for a fact.

TONI KELTZ  
 San Leandro, Ca.

*(Continued on page 56)*



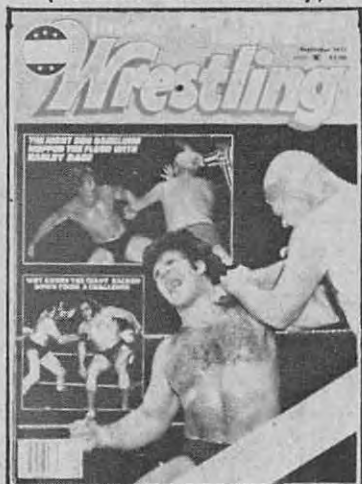
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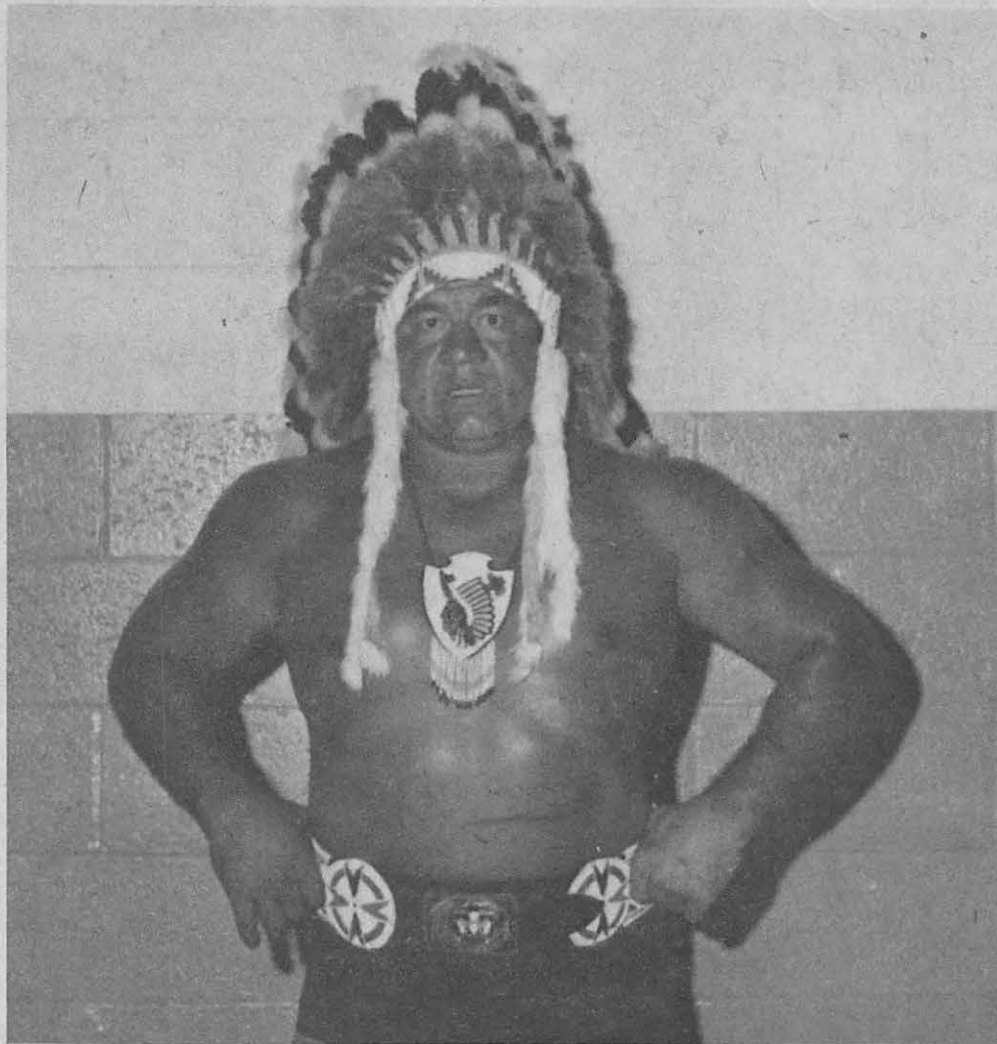
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**WHY WAHO  
MUST NOW  
DESTROY  
RIC FLAIR**



**S**OME WERE CRYING, others laughing. Faces swelled into balloons bearing the legend, "Wahoo Let Us Down!" A little child sprouted horns upon his head and promptly pricked the balloons, exploding people into shreds. The child turned into Ric Flair who turned into the U.S. title that turned to dust. The dust became a grave and a tombstone appeared at its head. Upon it was written, "Here Moulders Wahoo McDaniel, Traitor to Wrestling. May He Burn In Hell."

Wahoo McDaniel woke with a start. A cold sweat covered his body. Beside him, crumpled, lay a letter. McDaniel didn't want to read it. He didn't have to. The words were burned into his brain. Each sentence dug into his pride like the slash of a sabre.

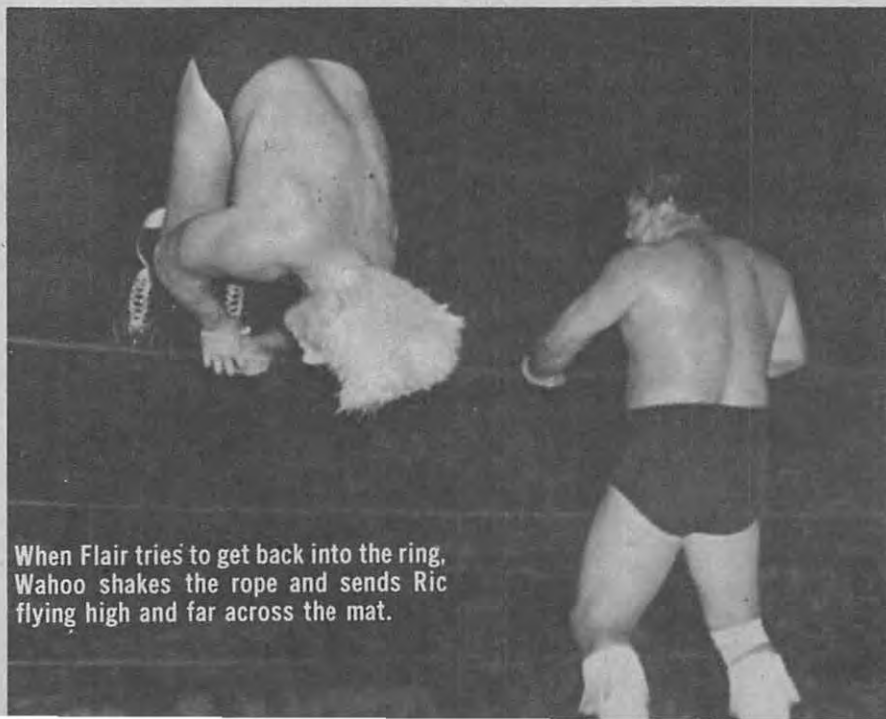
There was no introduction to the letter, no "Dear Mr. McDaniel" or any other attempt at cordiality. It began harshly, "You're a disgrace to



Wahoo's knees buckle slightly after Ric Flair delivers a hard punch into McDaniel's mid-section. Moments later, Wahoo shook off the effect of the blow and came charging back at his hated rival.

PHOTOS BY BILL JANOSIK

# O McDANIEL



When Flair tries to get back into the ring, Wahoo shakes the rope and sends Ric flying high and far across the mat.

**People look up to Wahoo McDaniel. That responsibility weighs heavy on the athlete's shoulders. With Ric Flair holding the U.S. belt, McDaniel feels he has failed his people. When McDaniel faces failure, an explosion has got to occur!**

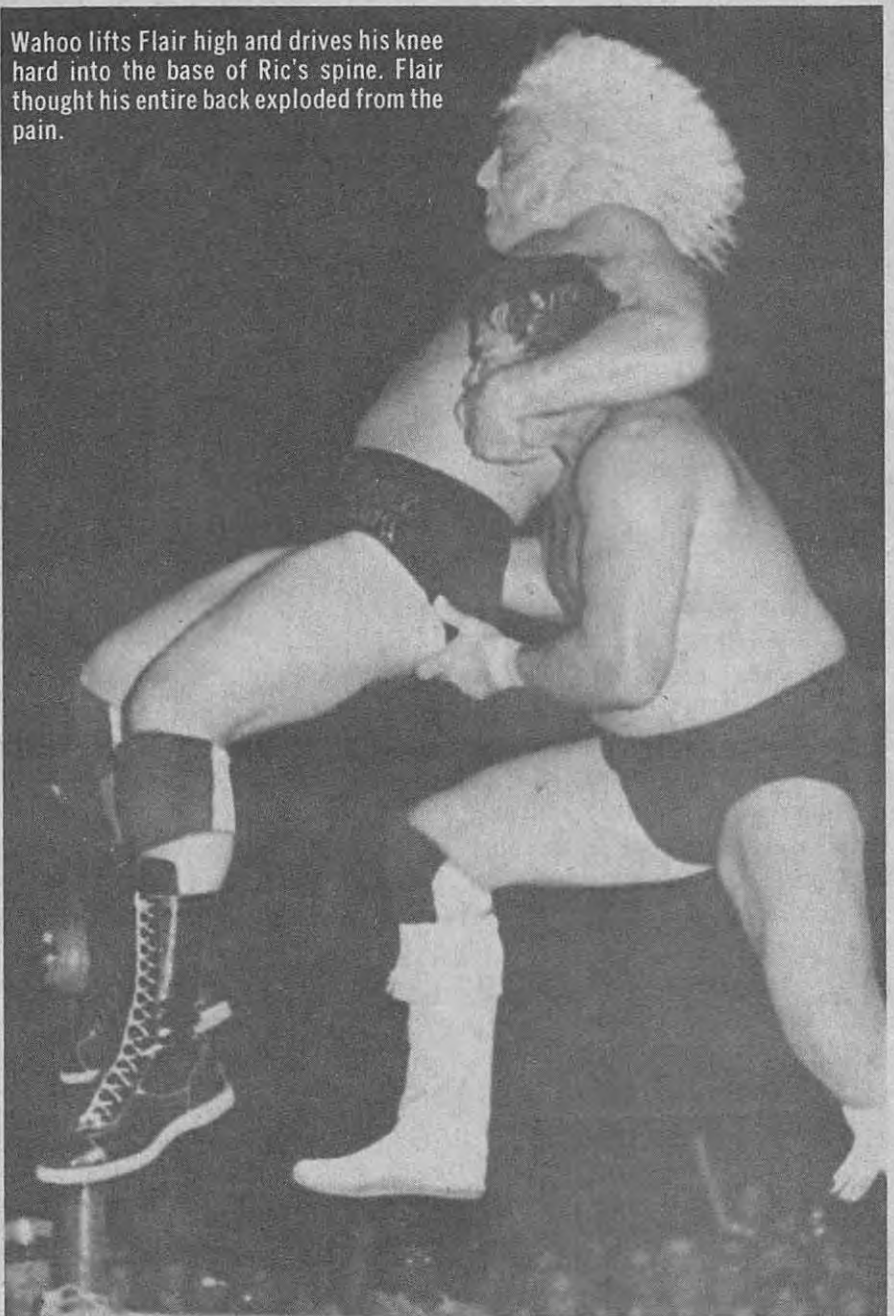
sportsmanship. My little son and his friends are at the age when their ideas about fairness are being formed. Wrestling fans see the difference between scientific and rulebreaking grapplers. It's important for them to see how scientific wrestlers can also be winners. Ric Flair, the lowest type of athlete, has the U.S. belt. You don't. What lesson can these youngsters learn from that? Cheating pays. Congratulations from the juvenile delinquents of America!"

Wahoo tried to get back to sleep. He tossed and turned for what seemed like an eternity. Then he sat bolt upright in his bed. His hands tore at the letter as the paper was reduced to shreds. Wahoo took the pieces and threw them into the air. They scattered in the air as a paper cloud slowly descended to the floor. Wahoo hoped this destruction would let him sleep. But he'd have to cut his brain to force the words from his conscious. Traitor to wrestling.

To understand McDaniel's anguish, one must know what youngsters and sportsmanship mean to the man. Much of his time is devoted to youth groups. "Making kids understand the true meaning of sportsmanship and competition," Wahoo once told an interviewer, "is the most important thing a man can do. Those principles guide a person's life, extending into all areas. Through these kids, I'm making the world a little better place to live in."

Ric Flair had turned that mission into a disaster. The man's reprehensible tactics brought him to a title and allowed him to keep it. McDaniel's decency proved no match for Flair's cheating. As Ric parades around with the belt, Wahoo's pride shrivels. Traitor to wrestling, traitor to his fans, traitor to the children.

Wahoo lifts Flair high and drives his knee hard into the base of Ric's spine. Flair thought his entire back exploded from the pain.



Wahoo didn't sleep much that night. The little sleep he was granted found nightmares swirling through the wrestler's brain. When he woke up in the morning, all the coffee in the world couldn't give enough strength for him to function properly. Before even brushing his teeth, Wahoo was on the phone with a wrestling promoter.

"I want Flair!" he declared, his voice still groggy from sleep.

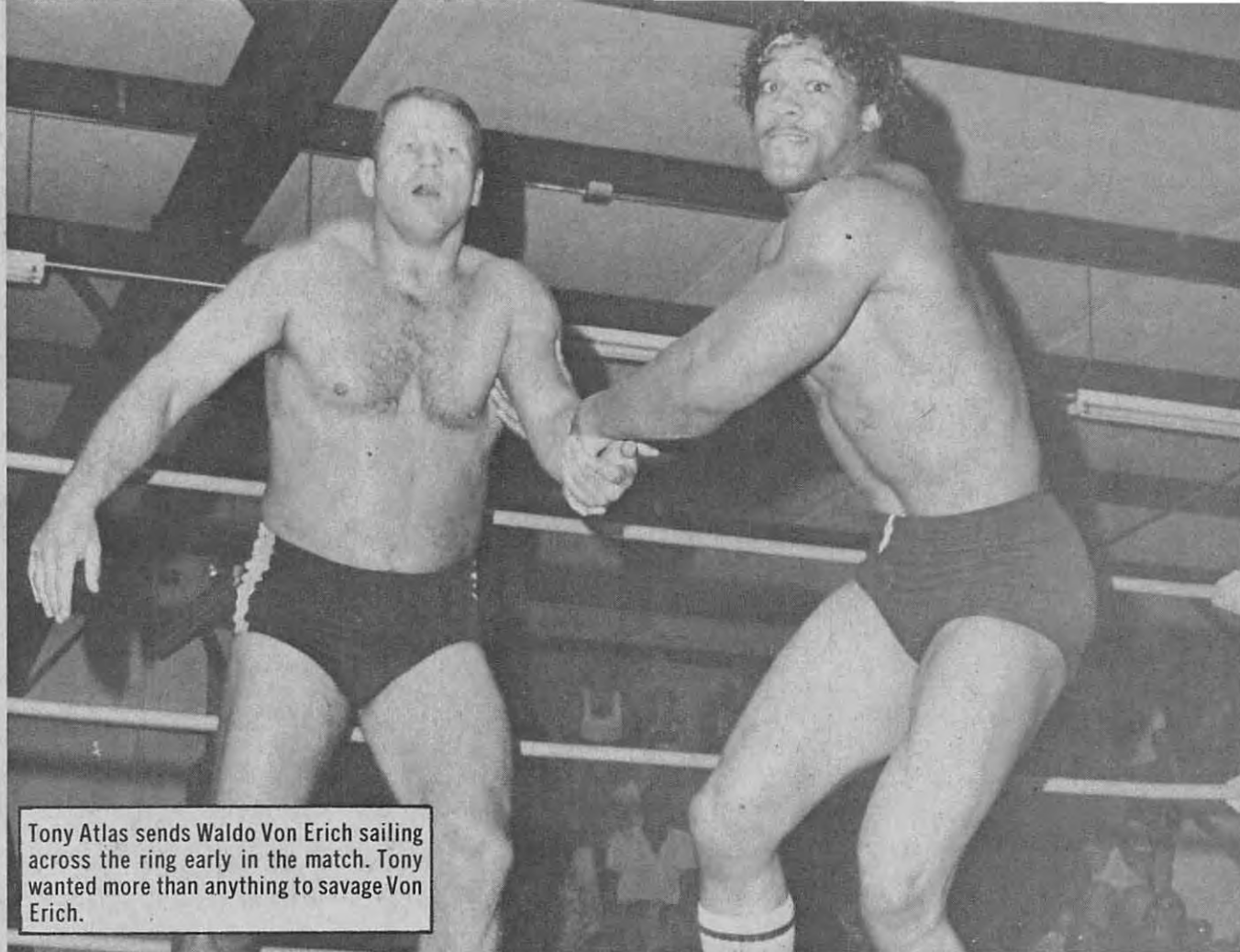
"You've had him," the promoter replied. "Why should I go out of my way to get you another shot?"

Wahoo slammed down the phone. How can that louse talk to him like that? Then images from the match came to mind. It was Flair's best night and one of Wahoo's worst. No wrestler could have coped that evening with Flair's illegal tactics. Few would have dared. Wahoo struggled valiantly but in vain. Flair employed every advantage of a champion, confounding and confusing his foe at every turn. The cruel cunning of Flair took the match.

The last image Wahoo remembered was Flair leaping

*(Continued on page 50)*





Tony Atlas sends Waldo Von Erich sailing across the ring early in the match. Tony wanted more than anything to savage Von Erich.

# WHO'S INFERIOR?

**W**ITH THE FURY of an avenging angel, Tony Atlas hurled Waldo Von Erich across the canvas. The Nazi spokesman crashed into the ropes and fell hard to the mat.

The crowd rose to its feet. Atlas, with the majesty of human dignity, leaped upon his foe. What followed was a series of maneuvers guaranteed to make any foe into a victim. Von Erich couldn't possibly survive this awesome onslaught. Soon, the match was over. Waldo Von Erich left the arena in disgrace.

He had flagrantly broken the rules, guaranteeing he would be disqualified. This was not the way a member of the "Master Race" behaves.

Watching his victim flee in shame, Atlas stood in the middle of the ring. Surrounding him were cheering fans. They knew what this victory meant. Waldo Von Erich's Nazi lies would be silenced for a while at least. Any escape from his words of hatred are a gift gratefully accepted. Tony Atlas was the most grateful of

all.

As Tony walked triumphantly back to the dressing room, he remembered Waldo's boasts before the match. "As a member of the Master Race," Von Erich proclaimed, "I will make short work of this inconspicuous fool. I am superior above all others, me and others of my race. Atlas is fit to be my beast of burden. I am his natural conqueror."

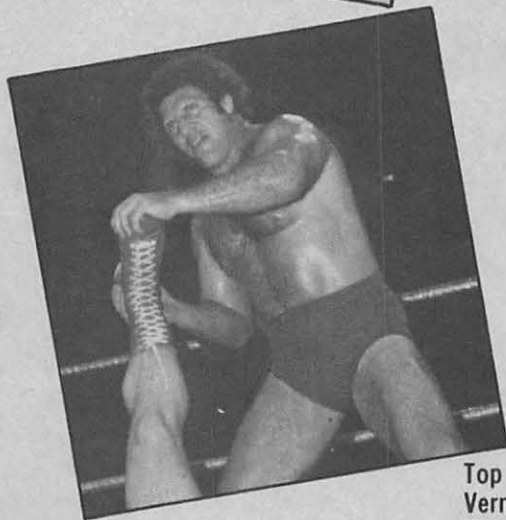
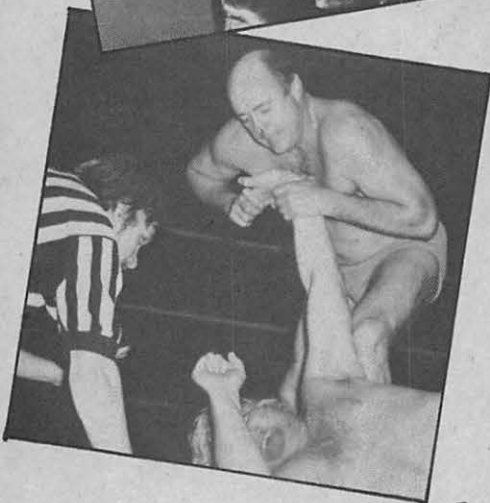
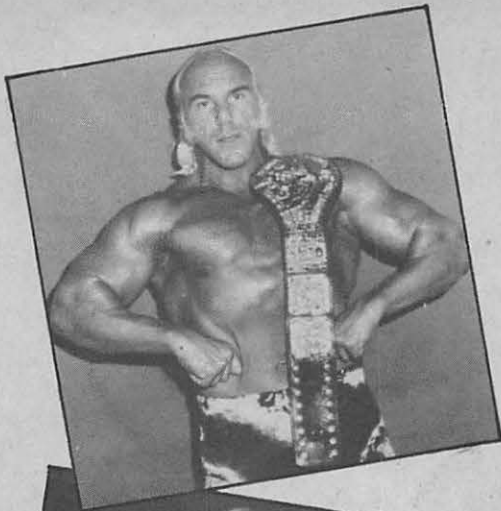
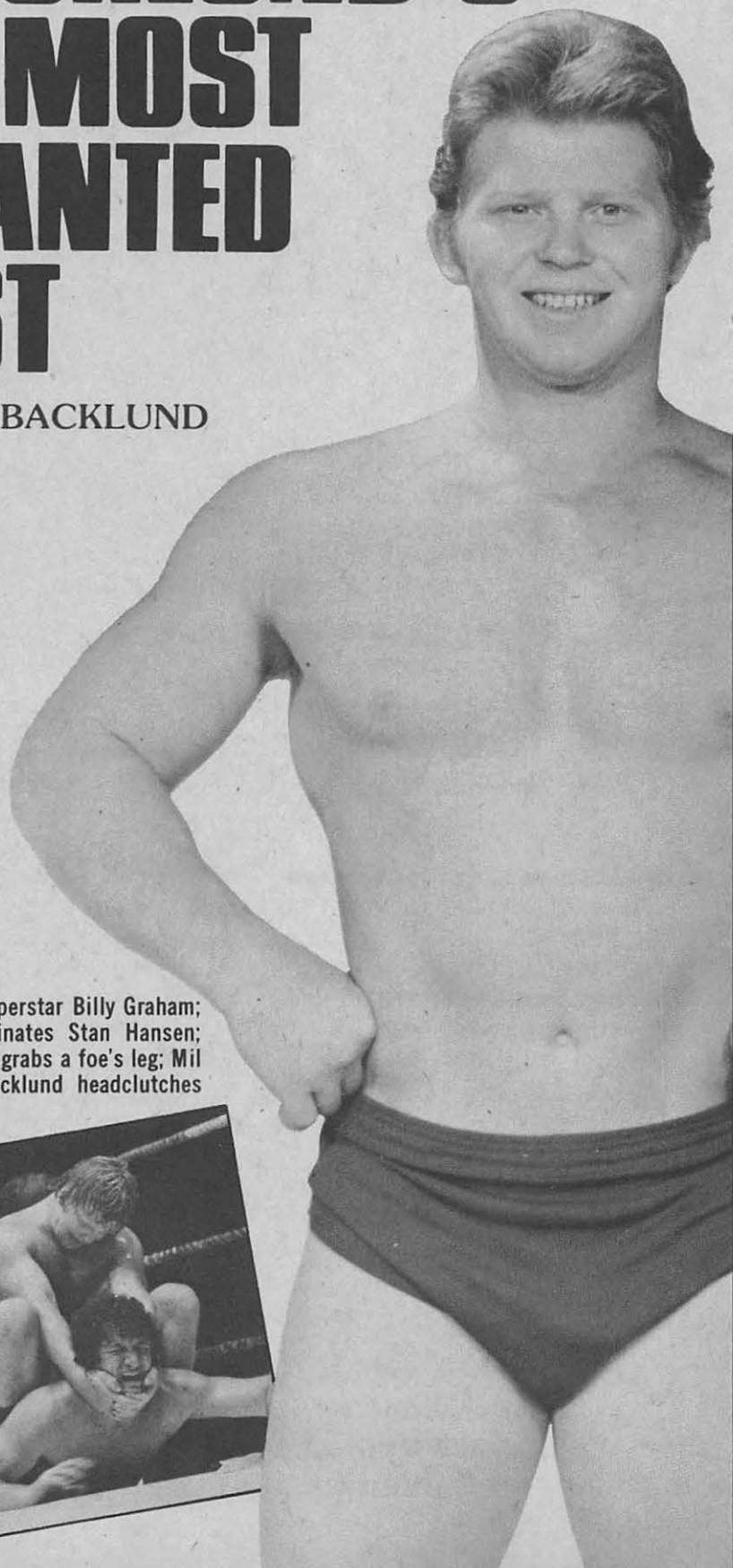
"Natural conqueror," Tony thought with a laugh, "well, it must have been an unnatural

*(Continued on page 58)*

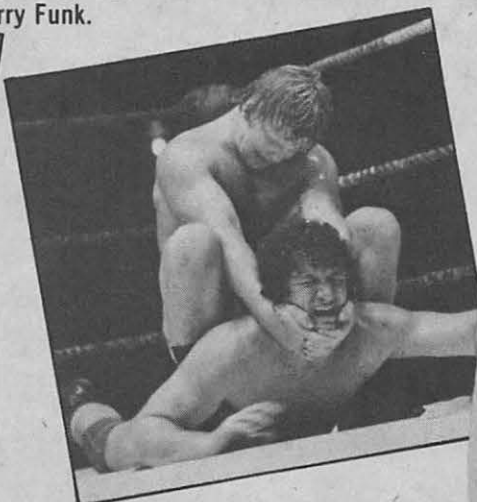
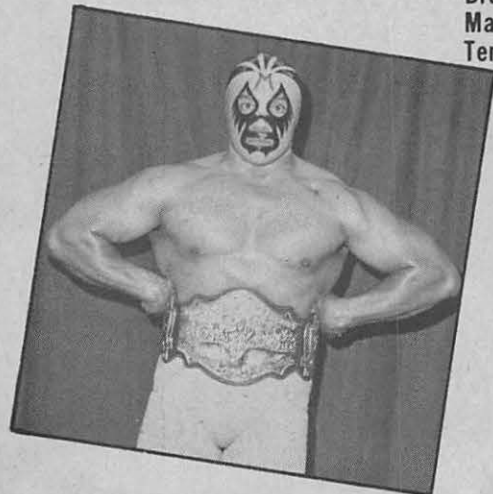
**The Nazi terror of Waldo Von Erich tried to spread its poison. Tony Atlas was the intended victim. But mealy-mouthed slanders couldn't defeat Tony's spirit. Once again, the Nazi menace died in the face of human dignity**

# BOB BACKLUND'S 10 MOST WANTED LIST

BY BOB BACKLUND



Top to bottom: Superstar Billy Graham;  
Verne Gagne dominates Stan Hansen;  
Bruno Sammartino grabs a foe's leg; Mil  
Mascaras; Bob Backlund headclutches  
Terry Funk.





**T**HERE ARE SO MANY great wrestlers, it's really hard to choose only 10 as the most worthy opponents. When I first started making this list, I had over 125 names. It wasn't easy chopping it down. The 10 I chose were selected for personal reasons, not necessarily because they're the best. There are so many great wrestlers today.

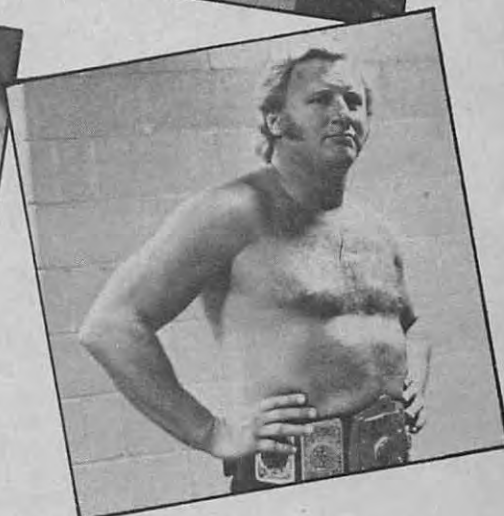
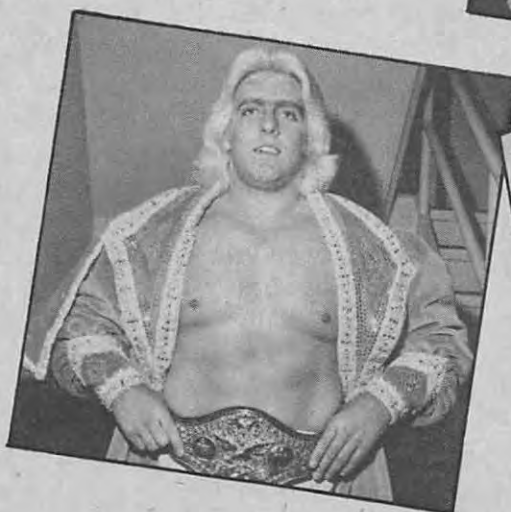
Heading any list like this have to be the three major champions. Of these, Superstar Billy Graham is the man I want most. It's a disgrace for a magnificent athlete to behave as he does. He doesn't need to use illegal tactics. He's a shoddy champion and a disgrace to the belt. I'd love

to defeat him and bring dignity back to the WWWF.

Nick Bockwinkle, AWA king, is a different kind of disgrace. The man is a cunning champion, though not as ruthless as his manager, Bobby Heenan. Heenan has built a dynasty of shame in the AWA. To break that stranglehold would be the greatest achievement any grappler could hope for. Bockwinkle is Heenan's figurehead. Defeating him would be like hammering in the first nail in Heenan's coffin. The sooner wrestling is rid of Heenan and his henchmen, the better.

Harley Race is tough. There's a brutal professionalism about

**When we asked  
Bob Backlund  
to list the 10 men he  
most wants to wrestle,  
we never expected  
this ambitious,  
startling rollcall.  
This is the most  
revealing article  
about this young superstar  
ever printed**



Top to bottom: Bob Backlund traps Harley Race; Ken Patera tortures with his headlock; Sheik; Nick Bockwinkle; Ric Flair.

the man. This is what allows him to remain NWA champion. To defeat him, to take his title belt, will be an incredible achievement for anyone who can do it. I want to be that man. It will prove I have the cold professionalism needed to be a great champion.

The phenomenally powerful Ken Patera is another man who wastes his skills as a rulebreaker. A victory over Patera would prove I can defeat the strongest rulebreaker around. That's an accomplishment any man must have before claiming the right of a title shot. Also, defeating Patera would show even the strongest wrestlers can be conquered by my maneuvers. That's something I have to prove to a lot of people, including myself.

Every wrestler dreams of defeating Bruno Sammartino. He may be the greatest wrestler who ever lived. His abilities are legendary. No one has been able

to match his scientific skills. His record for number of years as champion may never be broken. To meet and defeat Sammartino would be the consummate victory. Just to wrestle Bruno would be an honor. To defeat him would be the most majestic experience of an athlete's life.

Another master of the sport is Verne Gagne. While Bruno may have been blessed with more physical gifts than Verne, no one can match the master Gagne for wrestling genius. His strategies are studied by everyone who loves the game. I personally own over 25 films of his best matches and have studied them time and time again. To match strength and wits with this man would be a privilege that I'd remember all my life.

For sheer wrestling splendor, no man can equal Mil Mascaras. Wrestling against this dynamic athlete would be a constant challenge, a whirlwind of motion. Every second would be alive with challenge, a celebration of grappling. To turn back Mil's attack and counter with an assault of my own would be a great achievement. For the sheer joy of physical combat, I would rather wrestle Mil than any other man alive.

Probably the most dangerous of all the young wrestlers is Ric Flair. He could be one of the great ones but has instead chosen to be a ruthless rulebreaker. He terrifies young grapplers. To prove to them that Flair is not invincible would be a great contribution to wrestling. To also show Flair's tactics are not the way to win would be a considerable contribution to wrestling. Young guys have to know Flair's maneuvers invite practical as well as moral failure. I'm against everything Flair represents, which is why I want to beat him so badly.

When it comes to wild brawlers, Terry Funk is top of the



line. To wrestle against him is to know how rough a match can be. I'd like to know what it'd be like to wrestle like a lumberjack or railsplitter. Wrestling Funk is like returning to pioneer days. It isn't really wrestling, but it's a form of combat that makes a man feel 10 feet tall when it's over. Wrestling Funk is the closest I'll ever get to knowing what it's like to wrestle in the dirt encircled by cheering mountain men. Spit on your hands and go at it!

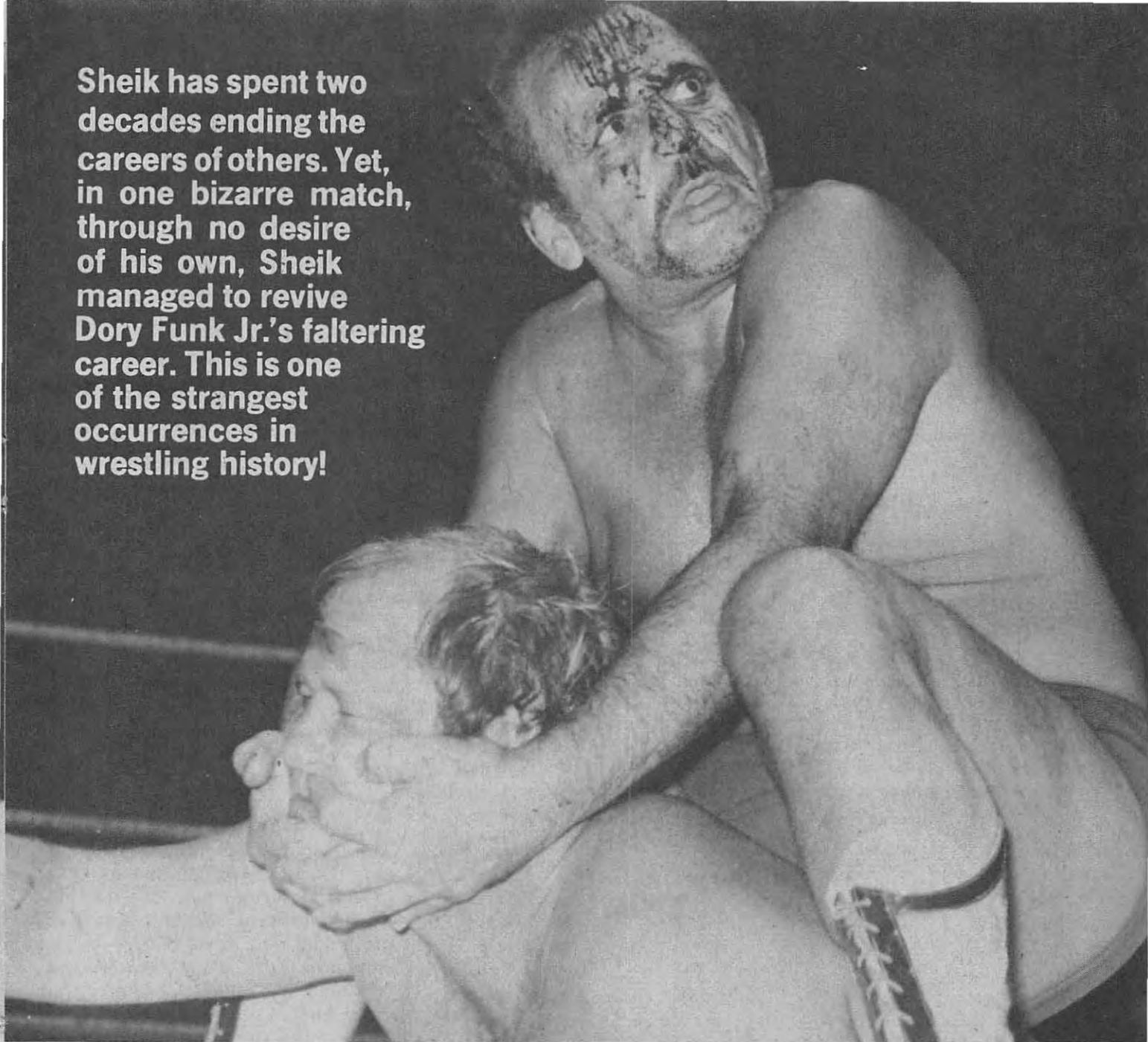
Last on my list is the most infamous wrestler of all. Sheik is the man, a blight on the sport for more than two decades. There is no dirty trick he hasn't mastered, no act of cruelty he hasn't committed. Many great athletes have been maimed by this reprehensible grappler. For them, and for many more to come, I feel it my duty to wrestle Sheik. I know the risks, but I also know my responsibilities. It's the job of every wrestler to defeat Sheik. It's the price we pay for loving this great sport.

These are the 10 men I'd most like to face. Looking back over the list, it seems like a fairly ambitious career. I can't wait to get started! □





Sheik has spent two decades ending the careers of others. Yet, in one bizarre match, through no desire of his own, Sheik managed to revive Dory Funk Jr.'s faltering career. This is one of the strangest occurrences in wrestling history!



# HOW THE SHEIK SAVED DORY FUNK JR'S CAREER

PHOTOS BY KEVIN KRON

**D**ESPITE THE ACHES and pains wracking his body, Dory Funk Jr. was grateful—terribly grateful—for having had the chance to wrestle Sheik. It has been a most important match for them both. And though the match had ended in a double disqualification, it was a moral victory for Dory. He had nothing of which to

be ashamed.

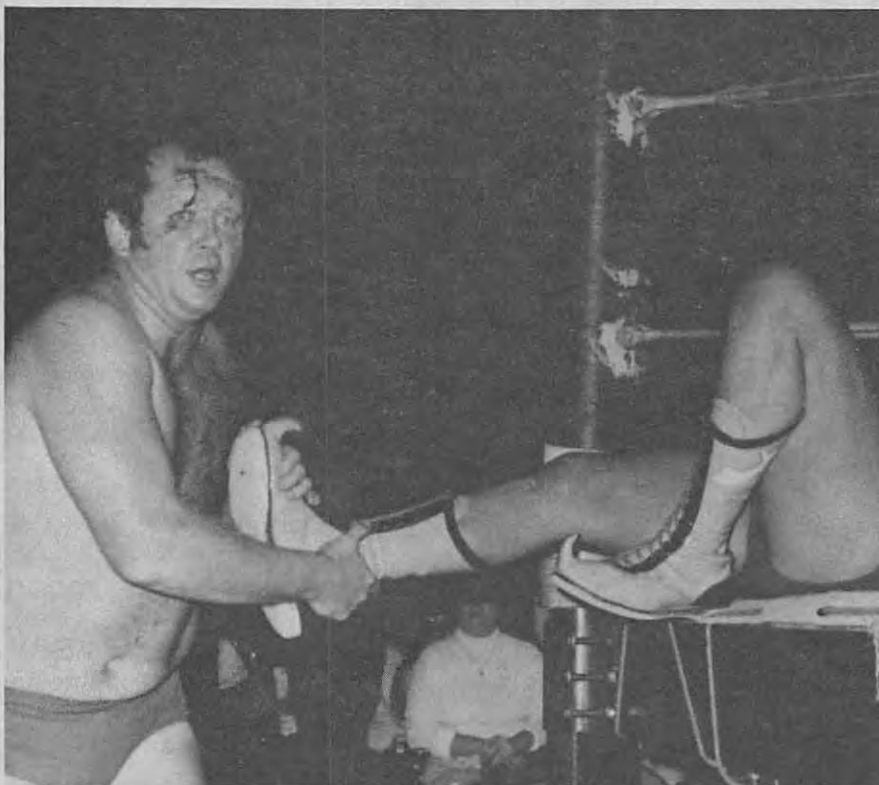
In general, these have not been the best times for Dory Funk Jr. There are no longer any champions in the Funk family. And though he is the eldest in the clan, he is sometimes forgotten in the wake of his brother, Terry. No one can forget that Dory was once the NWA champion, and still has a

good chance to win back the crown he lost. But even former champions tend to be forgotten after a while. Very few people can remember all the NWA champions.

The problem started for Dory even before Terry lost the NWA belt to Harley Race. Whereas once he was the most sought after grappler in the country, offers to wrestle



Any confrontation between two tough competitors like Sheik and Dory Funk Jr. is bound to be brutal. Nearly blinded by his own blood, Sheik still is able to pound away at Dory—with a little help from his friend (above). Dory is determined to prevent Sheik from returning to the ring (below). He has a few things in store for the hated wrestler yet!



began to dwindle. He spent more and more time on his Texas ranch. There was little else to do. And there was so much work to do on the ranch. At first Dory hardly

noticed the decline. But it soon became evident to him, and he wondered what had happened. He did not understand.

No one can ever say that Dory



Funk has Sheik just where he wants him: on the canvas (above). Both men were badly bloodied by this confrontation.

Funk Jr. declined as a wrestler. That would be patently untrue. Dory has always kept himself in the best possible condition, even when he was not wrestling. He has always strived to do his best. He could not understand where all the bookings had gone. Why were promoters deserting him? Or had they just forgotten?

One man had not forgotten about Dory Funk Jr. He had wanted to wrestle the man for a long time, but conflicting schedules had prevented this from happening. But now with Funk's burden lightened, it was time for Sheik to move. He issued the challenge.

Dory was confused. Why had Sheik wanted to wrestle him? It did not make sense, taken out of context. Yet put into a proper perspective, it made a great deal of sense. Sheik only challenges those men he considers worthy opponents. He obviously considered Dory a worthy opponent. Funk accepted the challenge and prepared for a rough battle ahead.

When news spread about the impending match, many people took notice. For some, it was the first they had heard of Dory in a while, and they were curious as to what had happened to him. Others, mostly the promoters, were interested in seeing if Dory was as





Bloody, battered, exhausted, but not beaten, Dory Funk Jr. is helped to his feet after the match is ended.

good as he used to be. And everyone wondered how Funk would fare against a notorious man like The Sheik.

The arena was jammed to overflowing on the night of the match.

Sheik had issued the challenge, and he saw no reason to be particularly merciful with his opponent. In fact, he planned to be quite brutal. Dory figured on this. He was prepared. He could be vicious himself, if the need arose. It would.

Sheik wasted no time. The moment the bell rang, Sheik was on the offensive, attacking Dory with

savage fury. He even tried to use his infamous Camel Clutch on Funk, but he did not succeed. Dory was ready for just such a move. He escaped and launched his own attack.

Dory was doing quite well for himself, or so almost everyone thought. Yet Sheik has been known to allow his opponent to think he is winning, then come on with a furious attack, just when the other man has been lulled by a false sense of security. Dory was aware of this, and he knew to expect it from Sheik.

Both men battled furiously. As the match became more intense, rules began to be ignored. Soon, both were brawling, trying savagely to win this most important confrontation. The referee decided he could not let this battle

continue. Both men had broken the rules. Therefore, both men were disqualified.

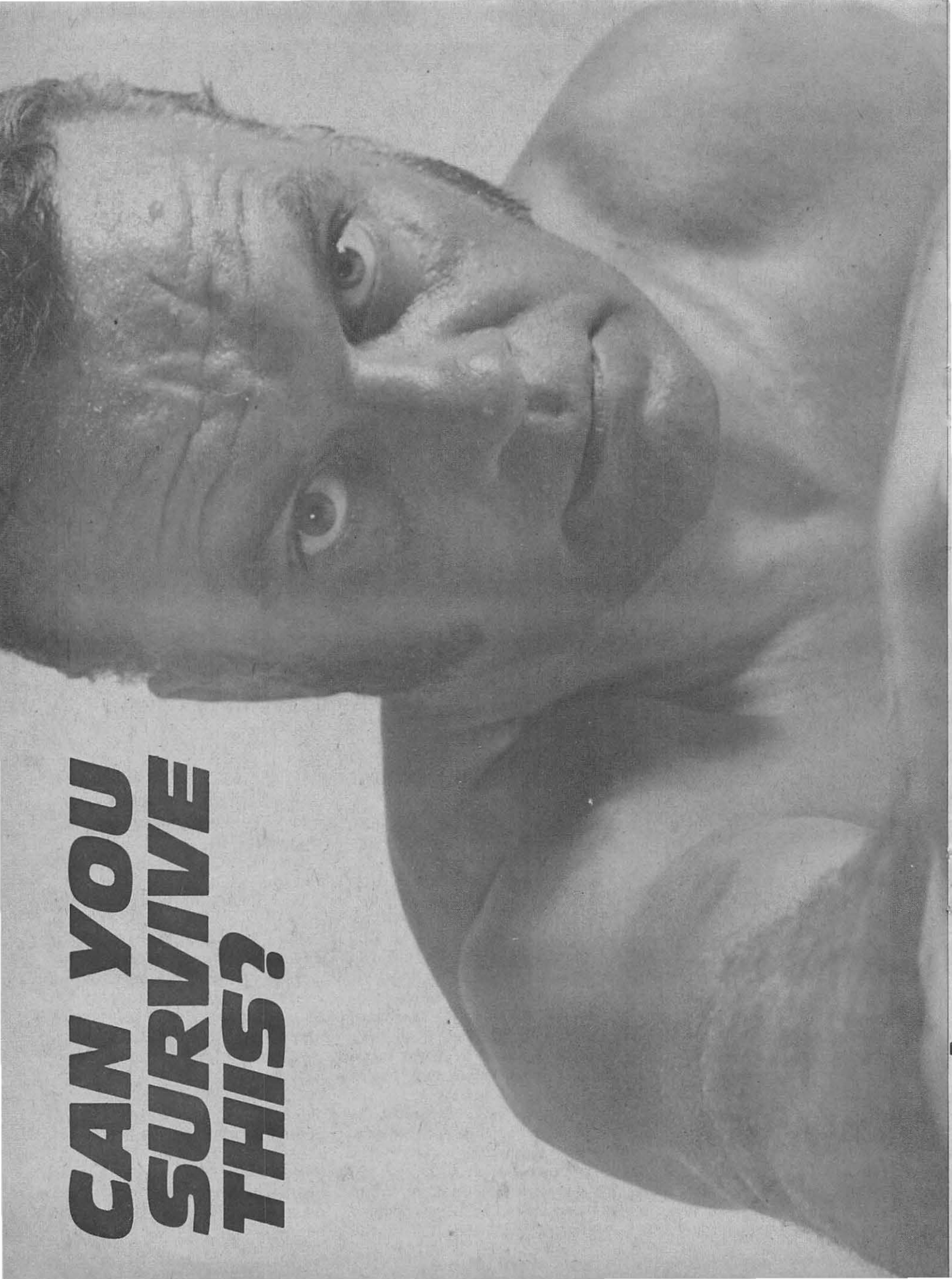
Yet Dory had won a moral victory.

It is difficult for any man to last even five minutes against The Sheik. That Dory was able to hold him back, and even come close to defeating him is significant. Everyone noticed this--especially the promoters who had been ignoring him of late.


That night, even before he had left his dressing room, Dory had been offered matches by several different men. He had become as popular as he had been before.

And he had to thank Sheik for this success. After all, if the man hadn't challenged Dory in the first place, none of this would ever have happened. □

**CAN YOU  
SURVIVE  
THIS?**

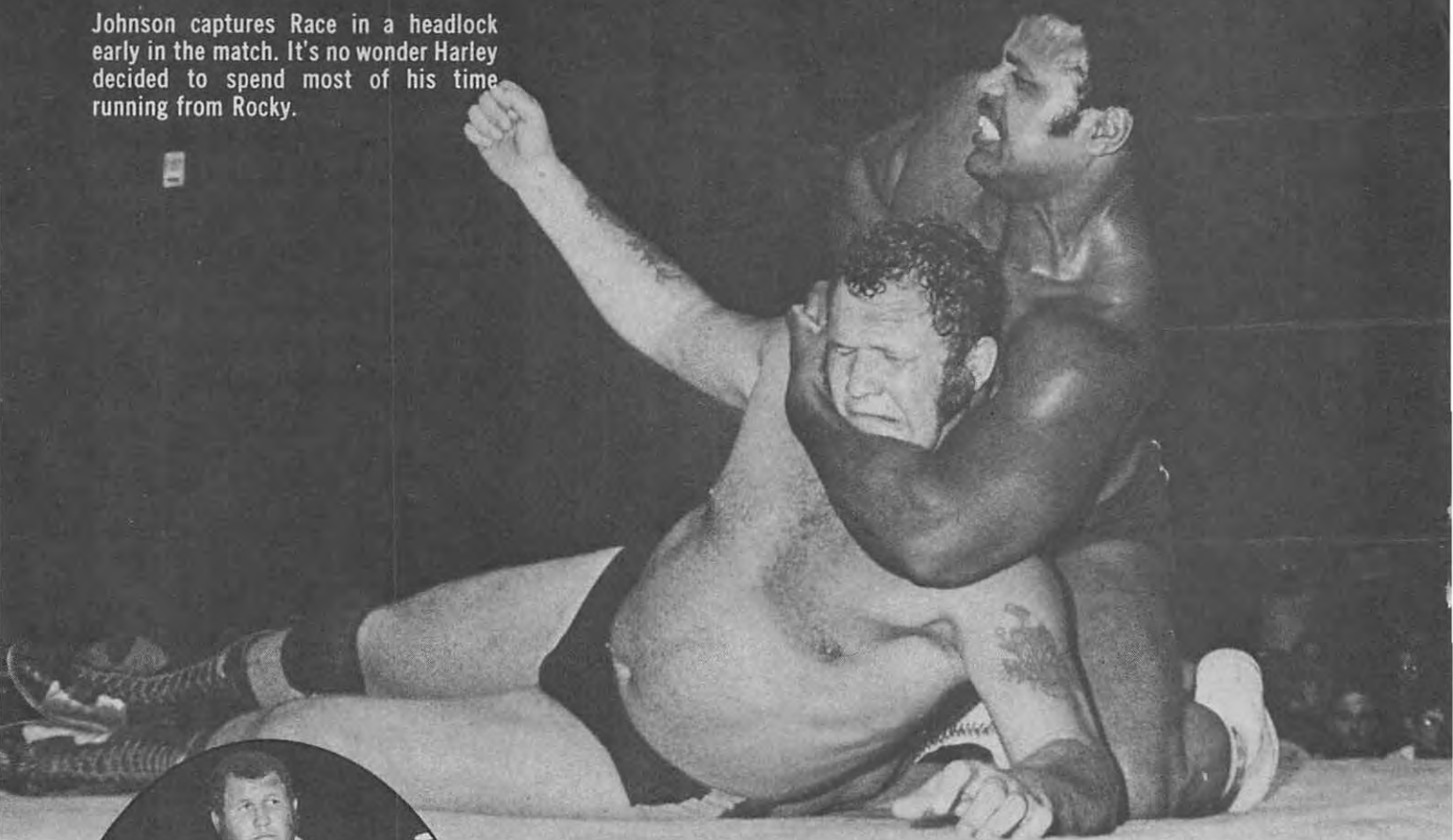






The Heart Punch. Those who are its victims barely survive to tell the tale. No one can devastate opponents with this horrible weapon more ruthlessly than Stan Stasiak. "The first that kills" has been unsheathed by Stasiak time and time again, transforming great athletes into quivering masses of helpless flesh.  
Who will be next?

Johnson captures Race in a headlock early in the match. It's no wonder Harley decided to spend most of his time running from Rocky.



**J**UST AS BEAUTY is in the eye of the beholder, interpretation of events depends on exactly who is doing the interpreting. In the case of the match between Harley Race and Rocky Johnson, there are two different versions of what happened—Race's story, and what really took place.

The match, according to Harley Race, was one of his greatest triumphs. He believes he displayed

his abilities at their best, using his great strength, cunning, and vast repertoire of maneuvers to hold a fierce competitor at bay for 60 minutes.

Films of the match tell a completely different story.

Harley Race should really be ashamed of himself. No champion should be allowed to get away with the kind of behavior he exhibited against Rocky Johnson. Indeed,

# HARLEY RACE'S SHAMEFUL MATCH AGAINST ROCKY J



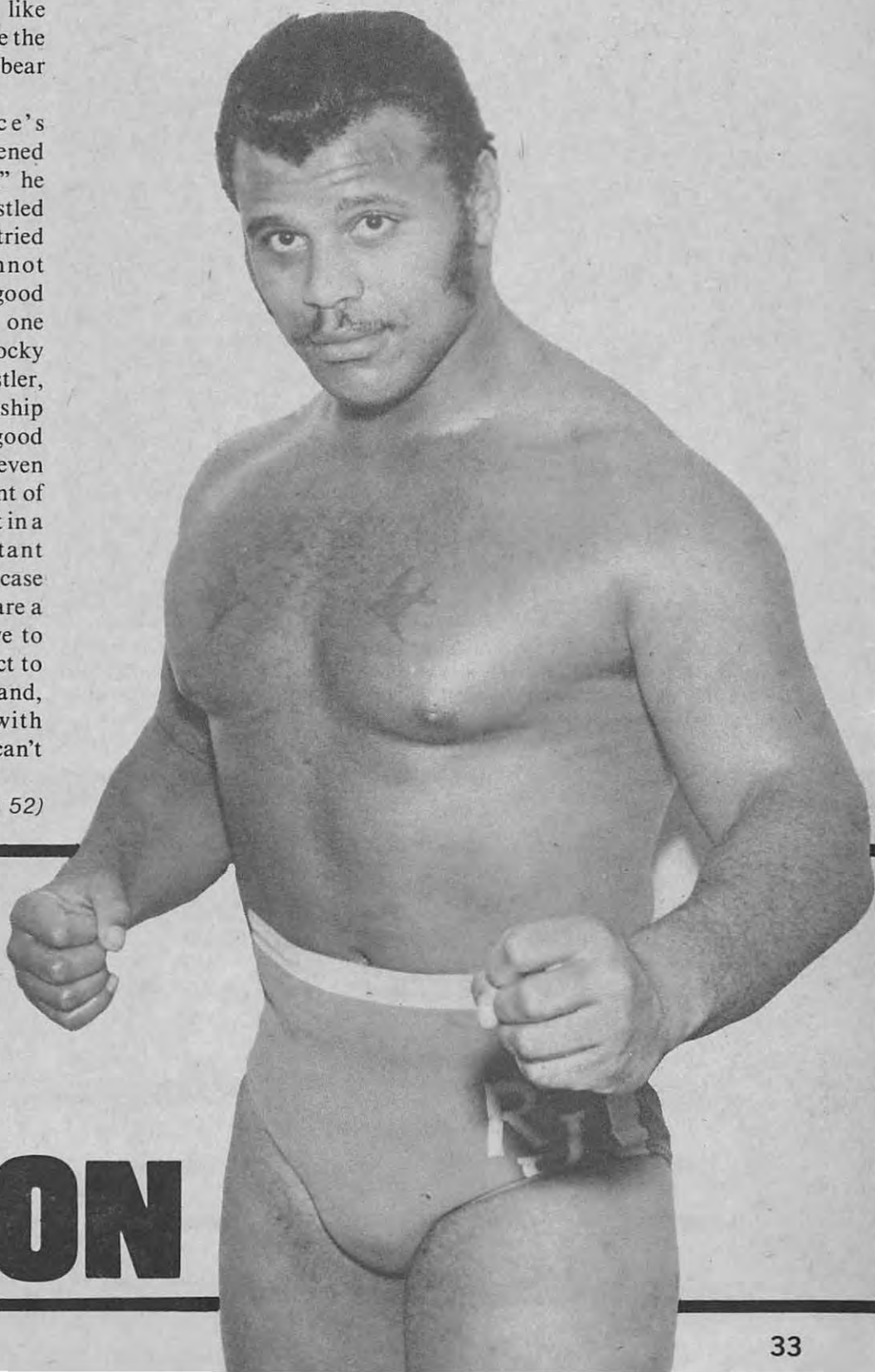
**The man is champion of the NWA. It's a title with a history of glory. Yet, against Rocky Johnson, Harley Race dragged the title through the mud, disgracing it as no one else ever has. Those who admire the NWA will read this story with tears in their eyes**

there has been a small but growing movement to have Race stripped of his title. This is not the first time Harley has done something like this, and it probably will not be the last. Nonetheless, it does bear examination.

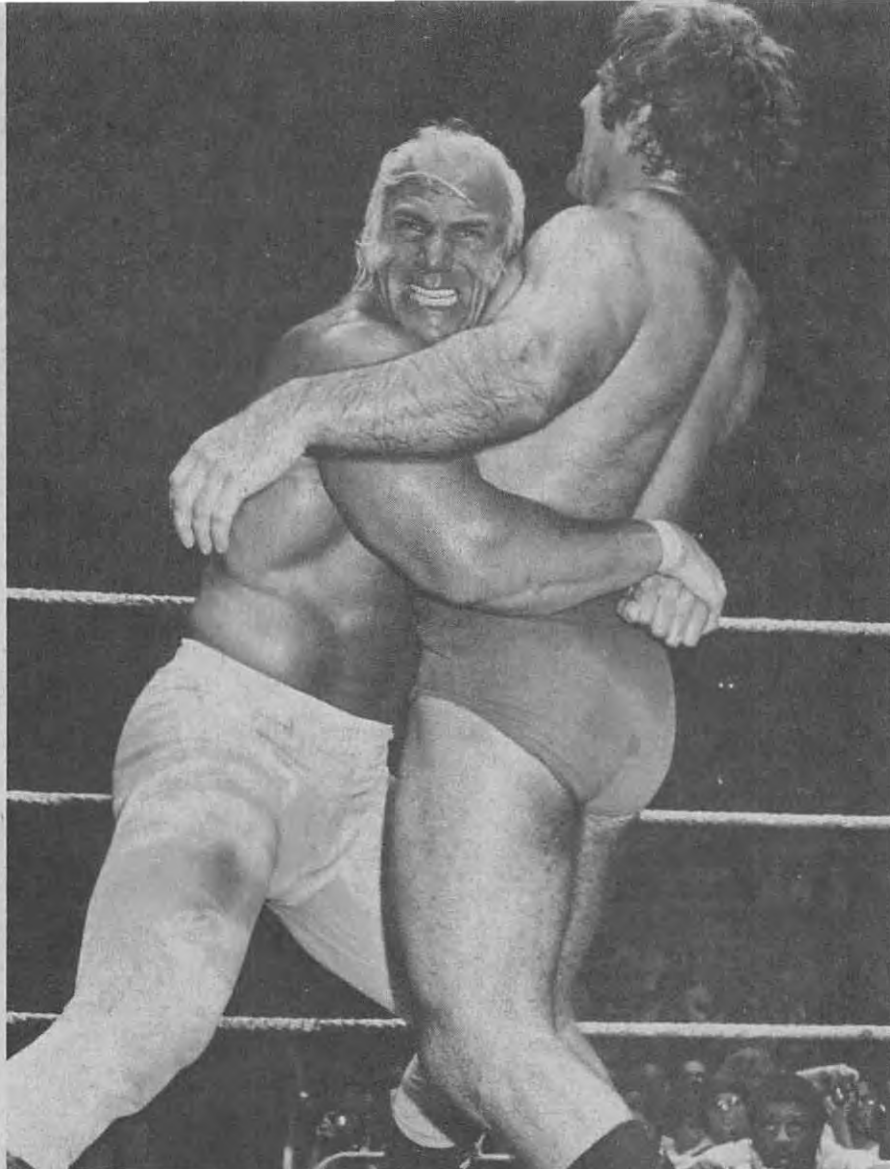
First, there is Race's interpretation of what happened during the match: "I believe," he says, "that I have never wrestled more brilliantly. Everything I tried to do succeeded. I cannot remember ever having felt so good about any match. Of course, one must take into account that Rocky Johnson is an excellent wrestler, though he is not of championship calibre. Still, he does put up a good battle, and I respect him for it, even if he does lack a certain amount of knowledge as to what is correct in a wrestling arena. His blatant pandering to the fans is a good case in point. I personally do not care a whit about what the fans have to say about me or how they react to what I do. On the other hand, Johnson seems obsessed with pleasing those idiots. I can't understand this at all.

*(Continued on page 52)*

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN



# H JOHNSON



Graham respects but doesn't fear Bruno Sammartino. A scared man couldn't take on the living legend and captures him in a crushing bearhug. So if Billy can take the measure of Bruno without being overwhelmed, the mystery wrestler must be the most awesome mat star of all time.

**N**O REPORTER HAS ever heard Superstar Billy Graham admit he's afraid of anything. To hear the WWF champ tell it, he'd waltz through a burning building as 38 sharpshooters blasted away with submachine guns. Nothing could prove too dangerous.

Yet, to friends he's confessed a fear of one wrestler. The following speakers are necessarily anonymous. All are close friends of Graham and many are top grapplers. They've decided to reveal Graham's fear for a very special reason.

"We're doing this," one explains, "because we want the wrestling public to realize Billy is a human being. Many people accept Graham's bragging as a picture of the real man. Billy is a lot more complicated than that. He has fears like everyone else. We want people to understand the human being."

Billy Graham, human being, "is afraid of a young wrestler. We don't want to give his name, because pointing him out isn't the idea. We'll describe him, though, because it's important for history to know what kind of wrestler gives Billy nightmares.

# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

# "I FEAR NO

# EXCEPT O



**The WWF champion is king of all he surveys. Yet, there is one man who strikes terror in Superstar Billy Graham's heart. The fear is so great champion Graham cannot bear to mention his name. Can you fill in the missing name from Graham's description?**

"The man who terrifies Graham is a graceful athlete, a man whose agility is equal to his strength. No one will accuse Billy of being a great flying grappler. The champ depends mostly on power. He's afraid of things he can't do or understand. So he's afraid of a man blessed with great agility.

"Secondly, the young man is intelligent. Billy knows the most agile, powerful man in the world doesn't have a chance against

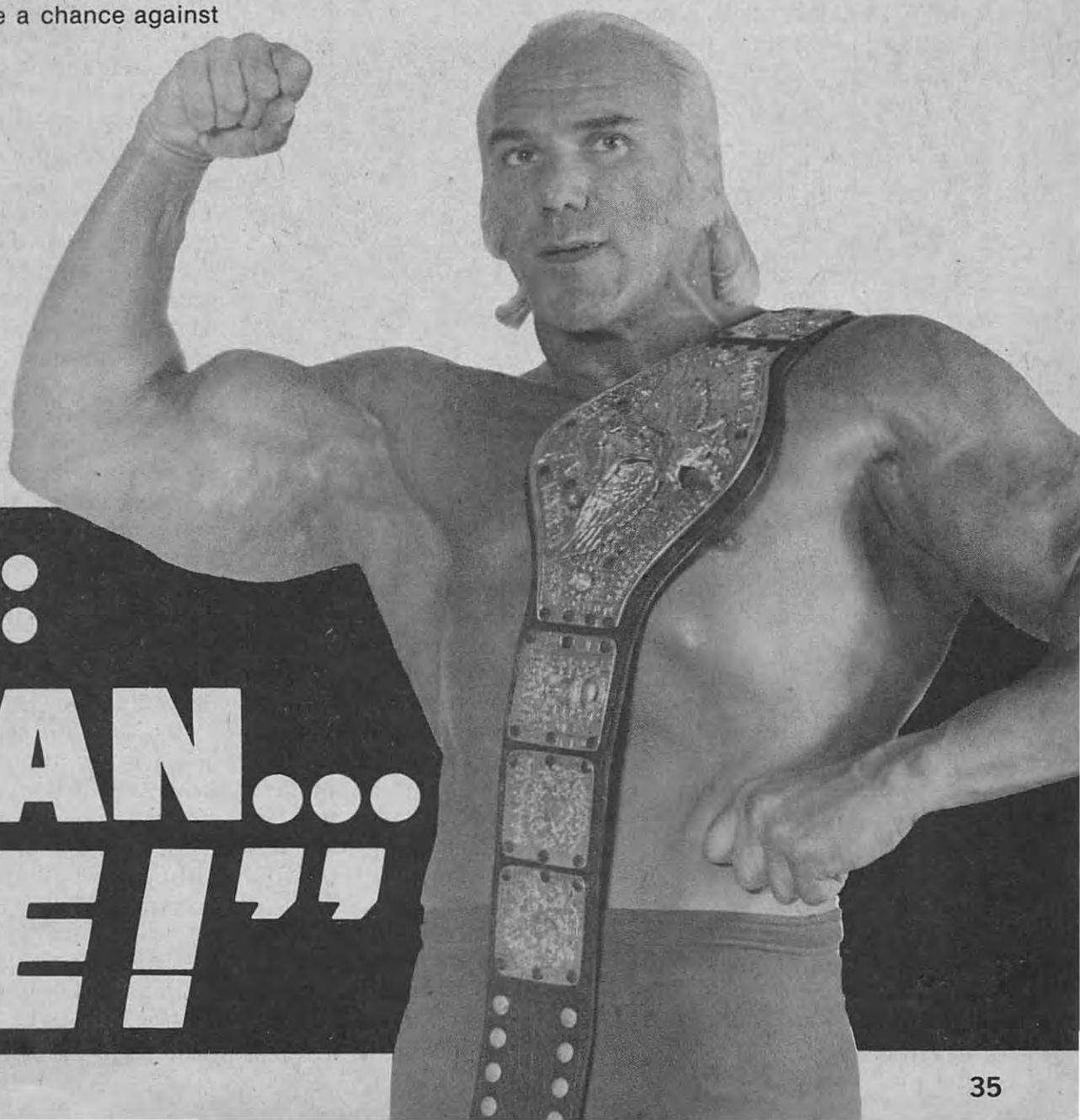
him. Most people don't realize Billy may be the most cunning wrestler around. When the spotlight is off him, and he's with friends, he'll brilliantly and seriously analyze opponents. His observations have genius in them. So Billy has nothing to worry about if a guy isn't really smart. But this young guy has brains enough to beat Harley Race and Executioner #2, two

guys who know how to wrestle. Billy knows this and fears it.

"Another thing about the guy is that he's always in great shape. That's something Billy respects, since Graham himself spends most of his life in a gym. I suppose this guy got used to staying in shape while he was a college wrestler and kept the habit after turning pro.

"This young guy can wrestler

**AM:  
MAN...  
NE!"**





Is the man Graham fears Andre the Giant, against whom he has already squared off (above left)? Tony Garea is young and swift, but he has already failed to conquer Graham a number of times (above right). Chief Jay Strongbow (below left) has failed in his bid to unseat Graham. Dusty Rhodes gives Graham a rough time (below right), but doesn't fit the mystery man's description.



forever. His stamina is incredible. A guy you can't tire out is scary as anything. The only way Billy can think of stopping this kid is with a gun. That's enough to scare any champion.

"What's more, Billy knows this kid is hungry for a title. The man wants to be champion more than anything else in the world. So far, the guy has been a golden boy, unstoppable in anything he's tried. Don't think Graham doesn't know that. People going all the way tend to stomp on people in their path. Graham is naturally afraid of being stomped.

"Most of all, Billy is afraid of the love fans feel for this kid. They see his innocent face, his full head of hair, and his Boy Scout smile, and it drives them wild. The man can be himself and is loved. Graham envies that more than anything else in the world. Do you think he'd brag so much if he thought people would love him for himself? A man who naturally wins admiration terrifies Graham."

Interestingly, Graham's friends are divided on whether or not Billy really has something to fear from this opponent.

One opinion is represented

by "Billy is the best. He may have won the title illegally, but it was no accident. Graham knew what he was doing, knew the referee couldn't catch him. That's fair in this profession. And no one in this profession will take the title from Graham. Anything this kid can think up, Billy can counter. Graham may not have confidence in himself, but I have confidence in him."

Others believe "Billy will fall. He has every right to be scared of this guy. If someone was looking for the perfect wrestler to beat Graham, this guy would be the one chosen. His skills are perfectly suited to defeat Billy. Maybe not the first match, maybe not even the second, but Billy won't survive. It's as simple as that."

Nothing in wrestling is simple. Though many of you may already have guessed the identity of this young star, we're honoring our word not to speculate on who he is. We promised to print this article without commentary on the possible identity of the man who scares Graham. Besides, we feel most wrestling fans have a fairly good idea who this young star may be.

Before this article was sent to the printer, we showed it as a courtesy to Graham. We asked him for a comment. He sat silently for more than a minute, which may be a record for this talkative champion. Then he threw the copy down.

"It's lies," he said with quiet anger, "no friends of mine would say these things about me. If they would, they're no longer my friends. I'm the champion. To hell with everyone else."

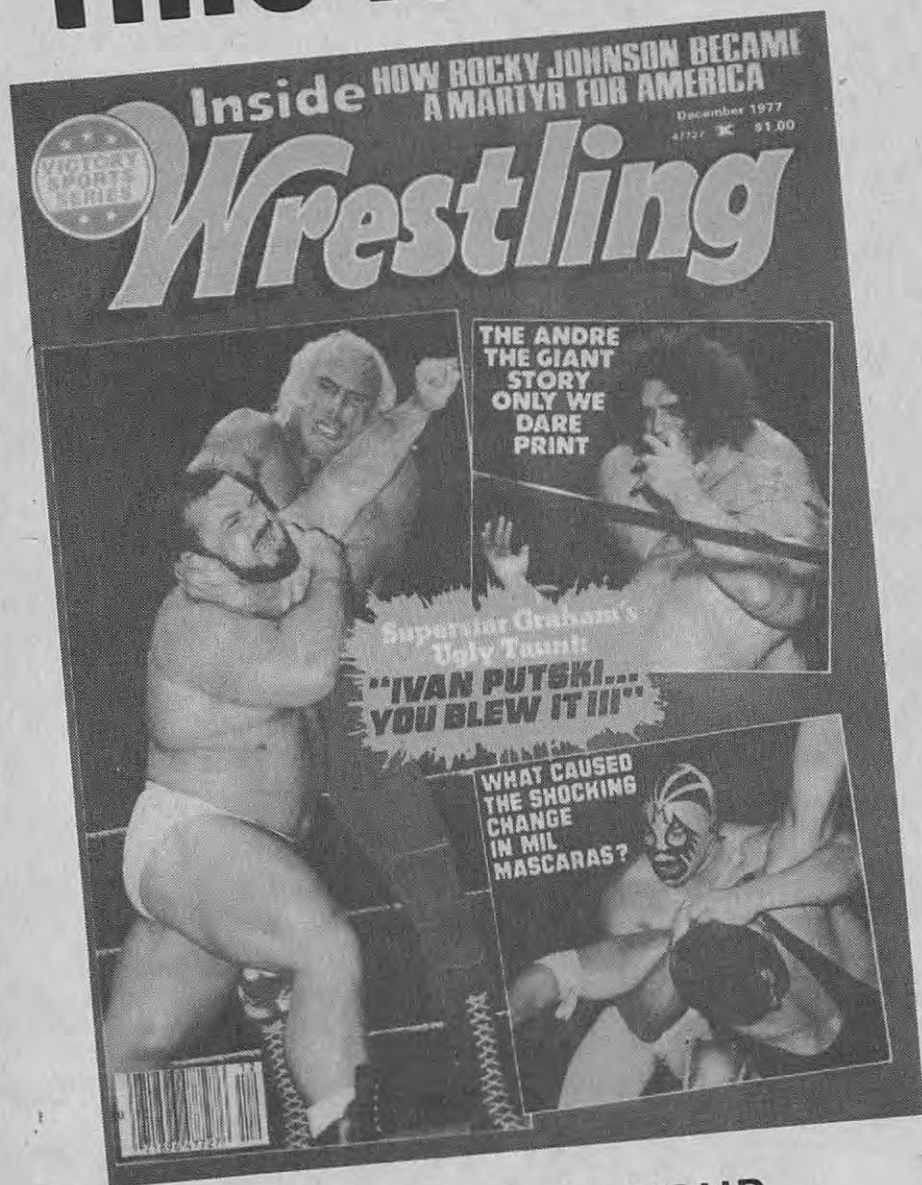
"No one scares me. No one ever has and no one ever will."

On his way out of the office, he kicked over a garbage can. □



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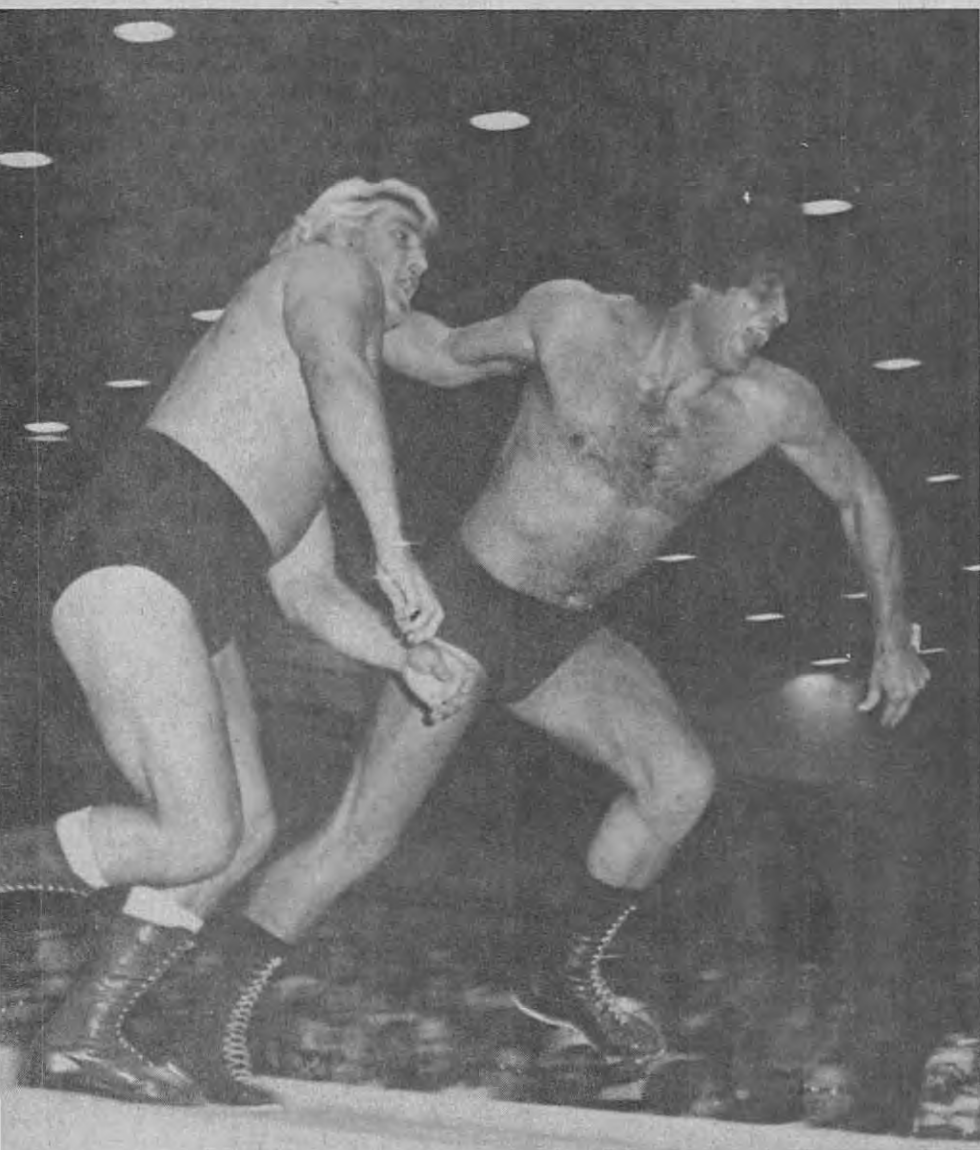
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**ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES: GO WITH THE BEST!**



Jack Brisco grabs Pat Patterson from behind the head and sends the man reeling across the canvas. This was the night of Brisco vengeance!

**I**F PAT PATTERSON has learned anything from this whole experience it is to be beware of Big Brother. He is watching all the time, waiting to see when you do something wrong. When that happens, he attacks. It is not wise to cross Big Brother. Especially when Big Brother is Jack Brisco.

For the most part, Jack and Jerry Brisco do not wrestle the same man right after one another. They try to wrestle different opponents since they are skilled in different areas. Generally—except when they team up together—they don't even tend to wrestle in the same town at the same time.

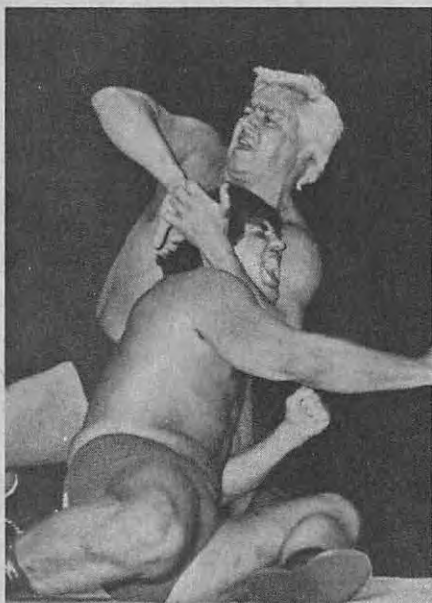
But they are in constant communication with one another. A day does not go by when they do not speak to one another about personal problems, family matters, or

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN

# **Pat Patterson Learns: JACK BRISCO STILL BIG BROT**

Families stick together, help each other out. When Jerry Brisco is hurt, brother Jack swears revenge. An enraged Brisco is a dangerous human being. Ask Pat Patterson. Don't expect much of an answer from him, though. Brisco's revenge is not Patterson's favorite topic of conversation.





Above: Pat Patterson digs his knuckles into Jerry Brisco's ear while at the same time choking his victim. Right: Jerry's expression as he stares at brother Jack is all you need to know about this close family.

professional concerns. They are devoted brothers. They care what happens to each other. They look out for one another. Hurt one brother, and the other will soon be there.

Ask Pat Patterson about that. He knows.

It came to pass that Pat Patterson and Jerry Brisco wrestled one night. It was not one of Jerry's more glorious nights. Indeed, it could be said that he did rather poorly.

# IS HER!



Moreover, Patterson did very well, though his savage tactics were not called for. He went too far. He brawled when brawling wasn't necessary. He cheated his way to victory. It was a cheap shot on Patterson's part.

He should have known better, really.

To say the least, Jerry did not fare well in his match against Patterson. And he duly told his brother about what had happened. It was something he

would have done, no matter what. He did not tell Jack what had happened in order to have Jack exact revenge. This is not Jerry's style. Anyway, he didn't have to say anything. Jack knew what he had to do.

A challenge was issued to Pat Patterson the next day.

"I had to teach him a lesson," recalls Jack. "I had to show him that he should not try any cheap shots with a member of the Brisco family. I know Jerry could have taken care of this matter himself. I just decided that it would be best if Patterson learned not to incur the wrath of me through Jerry.

"Of course, I'm sure there will be future matches featuring Jerry against Patterson. But I don't think any of them will be

brawl—that much was quite clear—but he was going to humiliate Patterson; show him that an injury to one Brisco is an injury to all Briscos!

Pat Patterson did everything he should not have done. Though he was once a well-respected scientific wrestler, he has chosen a different path to follow in more recent times. His mistake was evident on this night. The one thing Jack would not tolerate was illegal maneuvers. But Pat was intent on using as many brawling



Patterson doesn't even have his jacket off when Brisco comes charging across the ring and bashes away at his hated foe. Brisco showed no mercy to this dangerous rulebreaker.



Patterson spent most of his match against Jerry Brisco choking the young man. It's a typical Patterson tactic, one which has left many opponents laying unconscious upon the canvas. Some have to be carried out on stretchers.

quite the same. Patterson knows there is a big brother standing behind Jerry Brisco. And that big brother will do anything he has to do!"

And so it happened.

From the opening moments of the match it was clear that Jack was looking to do a lot more than just win this battle. He was out to teach Patterson a lesson. He was not going to

techniques as he could. This infuriated Jack. He set out to put an end to Patterson quickly.

Brisco used maneuvers which—though legal—were agonizingly painful for an opponent to tolerate. In short, Jack had Pat confused, and there was damn little the blond-haired wrestler could do to stop it.

Using all the strength he

could muster up, Patterson launched one final, brutal assault. Using blatantly illegal maneuvers, Pat tried to savage his opponent, much in the same way he had savaged Jerry Brisco. After all, if it was good enough to use on the little brother, shouldn't it be good enough to use on the big brother? Poor reasoning on Pat's part. Jack knew what to expect, and he knew how to counter it. He was quickly back in control. It didn't take much longer for him to win the battle. He had exacted the revenge for the family.

Jerry was jubilant when he heard news of what had happened. He had never asked Jack to do this for him, but he was glad it had happened. Jack's victory over Patterson meant a great deal to him. The tie that binds the two brothers together had been strengthened, impossible to break.

As for Pat Patterson, he had learned a valuable lesson: watch out what you do to a Brisco. Big Brother is always watching, waiting for you to take a mistake. And when that happens, he is always ready to pounce. □



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!**

## **EDOUARD CARPENTIER**

Edouard Carpentier, one of the greatest wrestlers ever, still wrestles regularly in the two largest cities of his adopted Canada—Montreal and Toronto. "At this point of my career," Edouard tells us, "I enjoy wrestling near home. However, I am not ruling out another world-wide tour in the near future."



## **BUGSY McGRAW**

WWWF fans remember well the maniacal tactics of Bugsy McGraw. His matches against Bruno Sammartino and Ivan Putski are still regarded as great battles in wrestling history. Today, McGraw has brought his unique style "down under" to Australia, where his rulebreaking ways have made him a success as well as the object of fan hatred.

## **LUKE GRAHAM**

The man who earned the nickname "Crazy Luke" keeps active by systematically destroying his opponents in Alabama. "I'm a real hit down here," reports Luke. "Y'know, all them pretty Southern belles just flip for handsome ol' me." Although we may doubt his success with the ladies, no one can doubt Crazy Luke's overwhelming success in the ring.



## **DOS CARAS**

For those wrestling fans in the United States and Canada who wonder whatever happened to Dos Caras, Mil Mascaras' younger brother, the answer is the Mexican superstar confines his grappling to his native country and the rest of Central and South America. "Tell my North American fans I miss them," requests Dos. Okay Dos, we just did!



Mighty Igor suffered some horrible pains in this vicious and bloody chain match against the Masked Superstar.

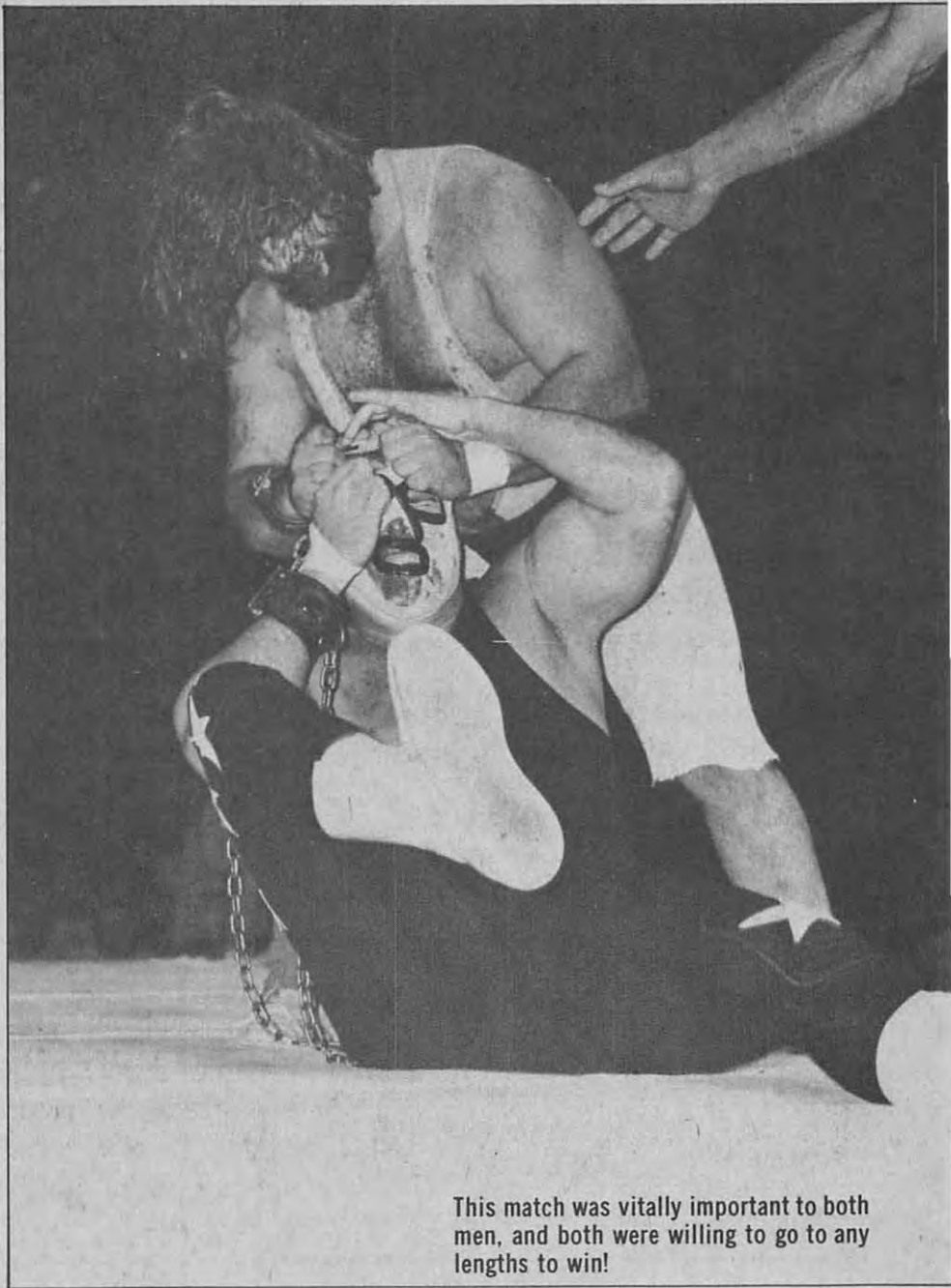
**E**VERY WORD OF the letter stressed the situation's urgency. Mighty Igor's cousin had gotten into trouble with the Polish authorities. His family always warned the idealistic young man against printing an underground newspaper criticizing the ruling dictatorship.

Igor felt proud as he read how his cousin condemned the government for taking away the people's freedoms. However, the rulers were intent on capturing the cousin and sending him to jail. Political prisoners have a strange way of dying from "unforeseen accidents." Igor's cousin had to flee for his life.

Getting out of a country that doesn't want you to leave is an expensive proposition. It takes healthy bribes to the right people. Igor was the only one in the family who could obtain a large amount of cash quickly. His cousin's life was in Igor's hands.

How to earn the most money in the shortest time? Igor contacted a promoter and explained his problem in broken English. The promoter was sympathetic but not about to give the money away.

"I'll tell you what," the promoter offered, "I think we



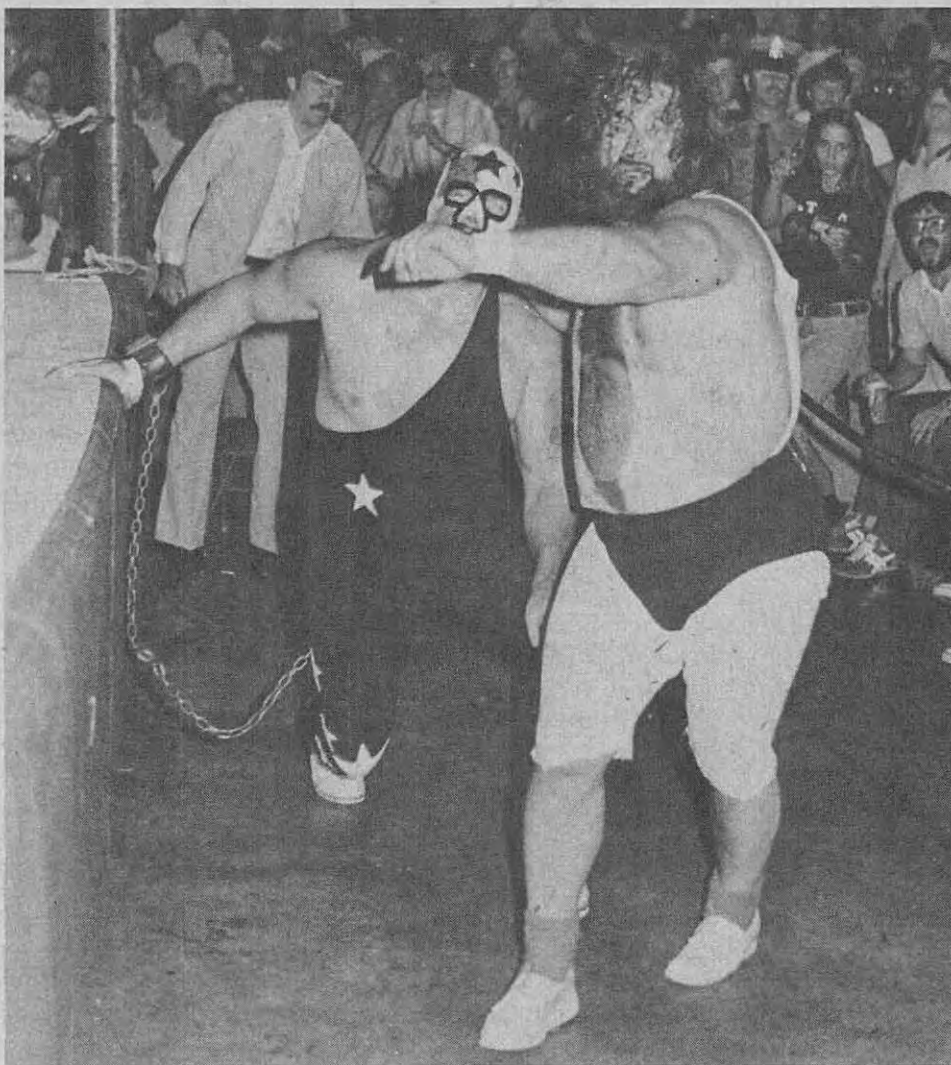
This match was vitally important to both men, and both were willing to go to any lengths to win!

# BRAWLIN

can both have our problems solved. I have this wrestler called the Masked Superstar. You've probably heard of him. No one knows who he is or where he's from. His last few matches have us wondering how he can be stopped rather than what his identity is. He's the most dangerous guy I've seen in a long time."

Igor had heard of Masked Superstar. Three of his opponents were still in the hospital, some of their careers behind them. Even the toughest grapplers tried to avoid him. Igor heard what the winner's purse for the match would be and immediately accepted. The following day his cousin could begin to escape.





**Sometimes, a wrestling match is the means to an end. Masked Superstar wanted to brutalize Mighty Igor. The intended victim wanted something more important than a wrestling victory. There are times when money can work miracles**

PHOTOS BY BILL JANOSIK

# G FOR DOLLARS

Igor trained like a demon for this match. He labored over defenses and counterattacks against illegal tactics. This was a match he had to win, for the winner's purse was a good deal greater than the loser's share. And it would take every cent Igor could earn to get his cousin to safety.

The night of the match—less

than a week after Igor signed for it—came too quickly for Igor the wrestler but not quickly enough for Igor the man. Ready in spirit if not technique, Igor would face this new threat and defeat him. He had no choice.

When Igor walked into the arena, the crowd cheered. However, they sensed this match was different. Igor didn't smile or

greet the fans. There was no time for jokes. A man's life hung in the balance.

Igor climbed through the ropes and then stared in astonishment. A chain had been brought in. No one had told him this was to be a chain match! Across the ring, Masked Superstar grinned. "Don't you

*(Continued on page 64)*

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# YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 8)

judging criteria, and Roddy, according to a spokesman, scored very high."

\*\*\*

Q: Why hasn't Dick Slater been given a shot at Harley Race's NWA title. I think he deserves one—Stephen Sullivan, Barnesville, Ga.

A: "Mr. Sullivan is absolutely right. I do deserve to wrestle Race," says Slater. "As everyone knows, I am the Georgia Heavyweight champion. That alone should make me a top contender. I do not know why Race has avoided a match against me. Maybe he is afraid of me!"

\*\*\*

Q: Why did Blackjack Mulligan leave the Mid-Atlantic area? He was the best wrestler we ever had in the territory—Michelle Buchanan, Virginia Beach, Va.

A: According to Mulligan, "Everyone in that area was against me. The referees gave me bum decisions. The promoters gave me stiffbs for opponents. And the fans refused to support me. So I packed up and left!"

\*\*\*

Q: Is it true Ric Flair and Greg Valentine are planning to split up?—Sam Bilinsky, Charlotte, N.C.

A: "There is no truth to that at all," says Flair. "I don't know where you ever got that idea. Greg and I are the best of friends. Neither of us would split the team up for any reason."

\*\*\*

Q: Does Jack Brisco think his brother Jerry is capable of winning a world title?—Sally Tucson, Oklahoma City, Okla.



A: "Jerry is a very capable opponent and could win the world title if given the opportunity," claims Jack.

\*\*\*

Q: What ever happened to the proposed match between Andre the Giant and Baba the Giant?—Kenji Tisurtu, Tokyo, Japan

A: Believe it or not, negotiations are still under way for the proposed battle! The official statement as to whether or not the match will indeed take place, is expected early next month.

\*\*\*

Q: When Paul Jones teamed with Rick Steamboat to win the Mid-Atlantic tag team title, didn't he realize that his chances of getting a world title shot would be halved due to tag team commitments?—Jack DeSanto, Columbia, S.C.

A: Paul admits, "I want that world title in the worst way. I am sure I can find a way to keep defending the tag team belts with Rick as well as getting a date for a single title match."

\*\*\*

Q: Now that Ivan Putski has failed to win the WWWF title from Superstar Graham, will he quit wrestling?—Billy Larchton, Baltimore, Md.

A: "I will not quit!" exclaims Ivan. "Graham still has not beaten me. In the matches we had he retained his title either in draws or technical victories. I can and will beat Graham!"

\*\*\*

Q: Can Fritz Von Erich's sons, David and Kevin, apply Fritz' famous clawhold?—Tom Graham, El Paso, Texas

A: Both Kevin and David have been taught the claw but neither apply it as effectively as Fritz. ☐

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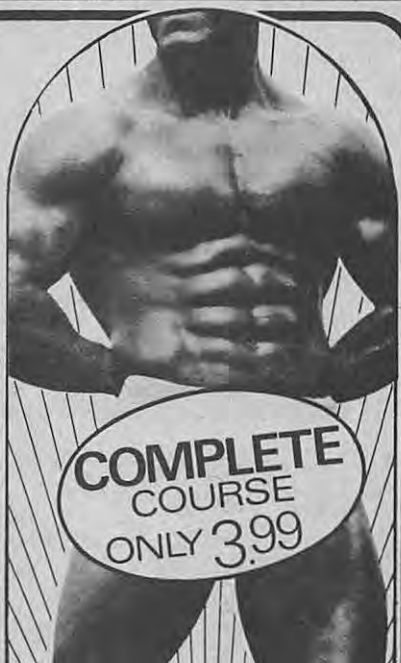
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## CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 10)

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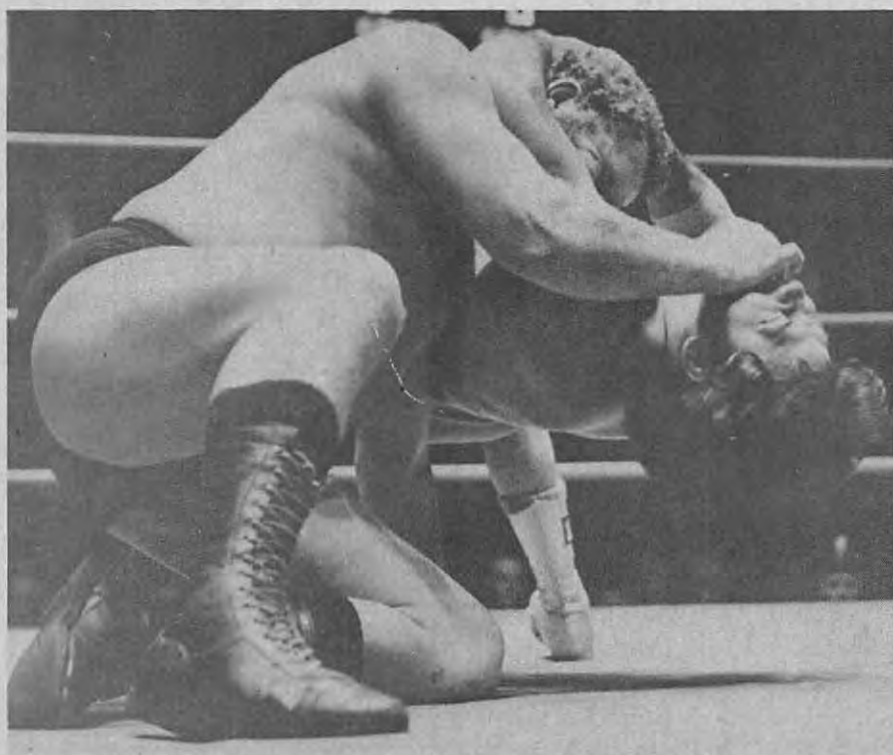
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NWA champion Harley Race tries to finish off challenger Chavo Guerrero (above) in their New Mexico clash. Gene Anderson (below, smashing Mr. Wrestling) was involved in a controversial six man tag team match.



Armstrong, and Tommy Rich. The match was scheduled for two out of three falls. Hunter's interference caused his team to be disqualified for the first fall. The second fall went to the popular trio of Atlas, Armstrong, and Rich when Tommy hurled Anderson into the ropes and surprised him with a flying bodypress.

In other action, Sgt. Jacques Goulet and The Avenger whipped Bill Dromo and Dino Bravo . . . Don Kernodle stopped Bill White . . . Randy Savage stopped Raul Mata.

**ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO—Correspondent: John A. Martinez**—A two out of three fall, one hour time limit match was the main event with Chavo Guerrero challenging NWA champion Harley Race. Race used every illegal trick he could think of to whip the young Mexican for the first fall. Chavo evened things up when he lashed out at Race with a

**MACON, GEORGIA—Correspondent: Stephen Bramblett**—Manager Rock Hunter combined the talents of Pak Song, The Executioner, and Gene Anderson in a battle against their arch enemies, Tony Atlas, Bob





Andre the Giant and Jackie Fargo combined in a match against Sheik and the wild Abdullah the Butcher.

spectacular dropkick assault and a flying bodypress. With 15 minutes left to battle, both grapplers took the advantage from time to time, but it was the time limit bell that finally won out in the end.

In other matches, Jerry Kozak and Rip Hawk wrestled to a stalemate . . . Ricky Romero and Bob Orton battled furiously with Romero coming out on top . . . Ervin Smith won by disqualification over the vicious Cyclone Negro.

#### BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA—

**Correspondent: Jody Melvin—**

Andre the Giant was paired with Jackie Fargo in a bloody battle against Sheik and Abdullah the Butcher. Before the bell rang, Sheik and Abdullah sneak-attacked Andre and Fargo. That advantage only lasted a few seconds. Andre quickly broke loose and pummeled both of them until they were bloody. Seeing no way out, Sheik and Abdullah fled from the ring and Andre and Fargo won the match by decision.

In other matches, Haystacks Calhoun won a 17 man battle royal . . . Tojo Yamamoto and George Gulus upset Ripper Collins and Luke Graham . . . Don Kent was disqualified against Cowboy Frankie Laine . . . Gypsy Joe fought to a time limit draw with Luis Martinez. ☐

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 13)



Pampero Firpo, the "Wild Bull of the Pampas," is negotiating with West Coast promoters to wrestle main events in their area. Pampero just completed a successful world tour and now he is looking for America's best competitors.

pneumonia. In one match, Verne and Jim upset Bobby Duncum and Blackjack Lanza, the men from whom Greg and Jim won the AWA tag team title. "Pneumonia! Ha! That's a laugh!" exclaimed Lanza. "Greg Gagne didn't show up because he had a case of coward's fever!" ... If they work at it, Dino Bravo and Tony Atlas could become the best tag team in wrestling history ... It is rumored The Executioner now wrestling in Georgia is indeed one of The Executioners formerly managed by Captain Lou Albano ... Nelson Royal is taking on all comers as he proudly defends the Junior Heavyweight title ... Tully Blanchard hopes to land main events in the Mid-Atlantic area ... Buggy McGraw writes from Australia to tell us: "The fans here love me. I am looked upon like a national hero just as I was when I wrestled in the United States."

A battle of "hard heads" is "coming to a head!" The Assassin

swears he can deliver a better headbutt than Porkchop Cash and Ray Candy. He is willing to match them in a battle of headbutts where each would take their best shots until one is knocked unconscious! ... Both David and Kevin Von Erich, sons of wrestling great Fritz Von Erich, are mapping out tours of the western states. Fritz is proud of both his boys and predicts big things for them in the future ... Dick Murdoch's attorneys are trying to get Jerry Oates to return the North American title belt Dick lost to Jerry. Dick's manager, "General" Skandor Akbar claims Oates won the belt illegally ... Terry Funk has his hands full. Two of the sport's most hated brawlers, The Sheik and Bulldog Don Kent, are out to cripple the former NWA champion.

Jimmy Snuka is being hailed as "the new Antonino Rocca." Those of you who haven't had the pleasure of seeing Jimmy in action should note that he has perfected as many flying maneuvers as Rocca and is adding to his repertoire every day. He will indeed become one of the outstanding superstars of the sport in the near future.

The "Wild Bull of the Pampas," Pampero Firpo, is wrapping up negotiations with California promoters for an exclusive contract to wrestle in main events there. A record financial deal would have to be worked out to get Pampero to stay in the area exclusively as promoters realize he is one of the top box office attractions there. He proved that several years ago when he drew record crowds in his west coast bouts against The Sheik, John Tolos and several other wrestlers the fans wanted to see destroyed.

And that's what's happening! See you next month!



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# WAHOO MUST DESTROY RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 22)

up and down, waving the title belt high in the air. Wahoo has been foiled by the time limit. It was officially a draw, but Flair had the action under control. Although Wahoo got in some telling blows, Flair was never in any real danger of losing the title.

Why should Wahoo be given another chance? McDaniel picked up the phone and called a more understanding promoter. He asked for a chance against Flair.

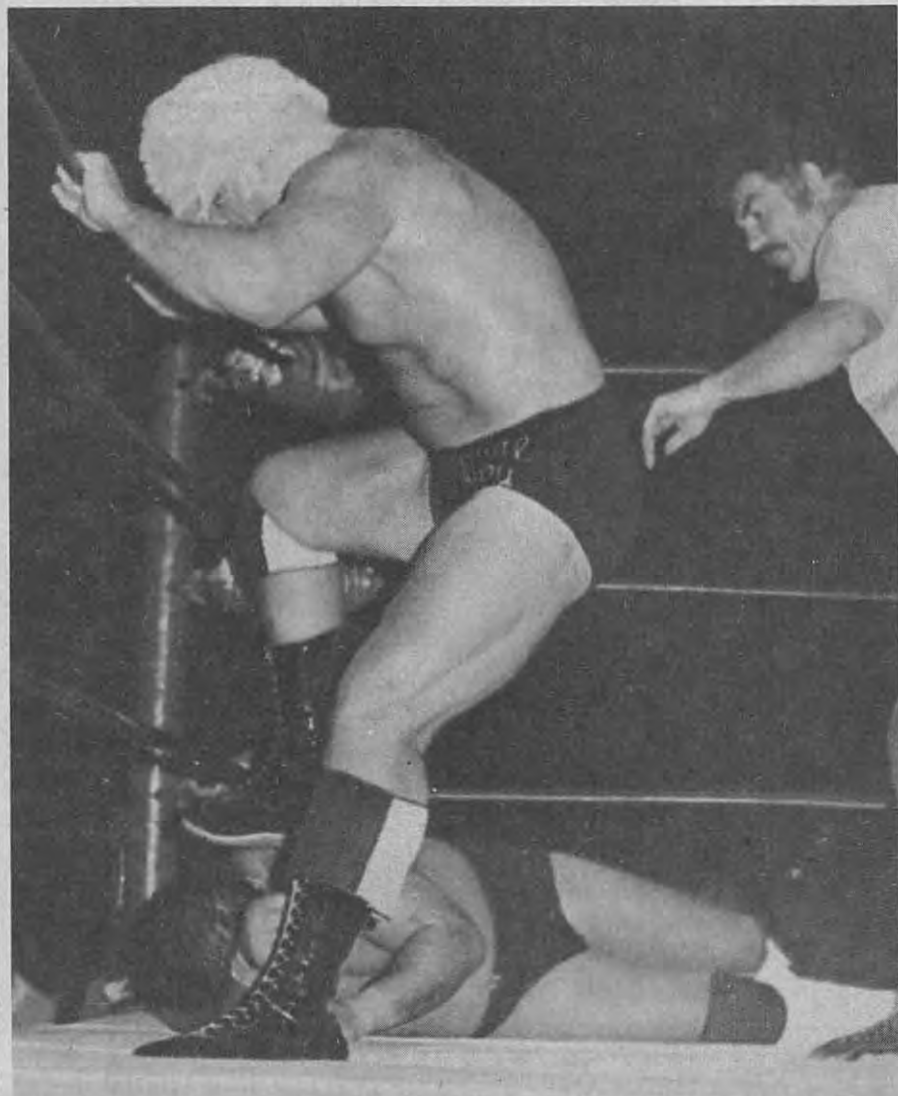
"I need this match," Wahoo admitted, "so I can look at myself in the mirror. People are depending on me to take Flair.

The U.S. title deserves better than Ric Flair as its champion."

Wahoo," the promoter replied, "you've been a friend for a long time. I owe you a lot of favors. One favor is that I'm not letting you wrestle Flair.

"Before you get angry, let me explain. I've seen you like this about other wrestlers. It always leads to a feud, and that leads to bloodletting. You and Flair have wrestled each other enough. Before one of you dies in the ring, I think this thing should be

Flair stomps Wahoo's head with a cruel savagery typical of the brawls these two recklessly battle.





stopped. Do I have to remind you of the wars you and Flair have already had?"

Wahoo fell silent, then in a quiet whisper countered, "Fans are depending on someone decent to take Flair's title. It's my responsibility. Give me the chance to retain my dignity."

"Let me call you back."

An hour later, the promoter called back and said, "I'll probably live to regret it, but you've got a title match against Flair. Don't thank me. I don't think it's something you should be thankful for."

After Wahoo thanked him anyway, the grappler went to his study and began devising strategies. It was a long, laborious process taking many days. When it was over, Wahoo went to the gym to try them out. Practicing with cold ferocity, McDaniel felt ready.

Finally, the night of the match arrived. McDaniel was nervous, but it was the good kind of tension that makes you wrestle better. Wahoo waited anxiously for the match to start.

When the promoter called to Wahoo, it wasn't the words he waited to hear. Instead came the announcement, "Flair didn't show. Claims he's sick. Get dressed and go out to dinner. I'm sorry."

"But the fans are counting on me," McDaniel declared. "They need to see me defeat Flair. It's not fair."

"Nobody said life is fair."

Wahoo sat stunned in the dressing room. Then, he stood tall and strode toward his locker.

"Flair can't run away forever," Wahoo thought, "and when he stops running, I'm going to get him. I'll destroy him!"

In fact, Flair didn't run. He was very ill with flu. But the U.S. champion is recovered now. He's also training hard. When he and Wahoo collide, the explosion will rock wrestling! □

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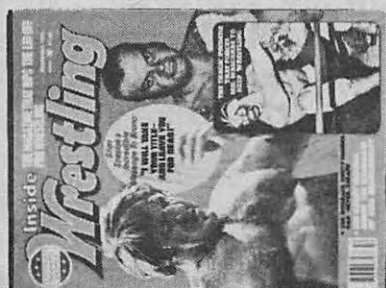


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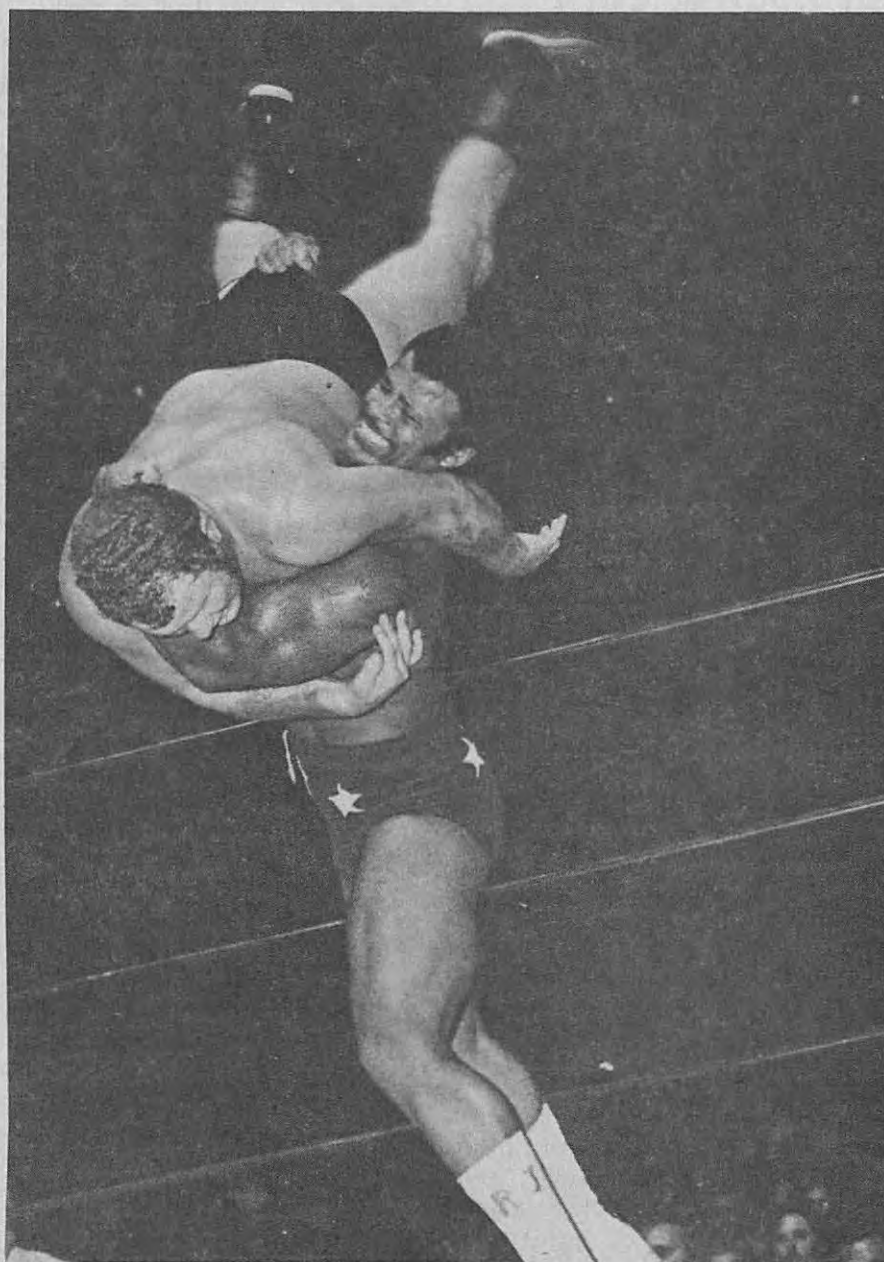
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## HARLEY RACE'S SHAMEFUL MATCH

(Continued from Page 33)



Harley couldn't run forever. Rocky captures him perfectly in a flip. Race crashed down to the canvas with a resounding thud. When he collected his senses, Race continued to avoid another confrontation with Johnson.

"But what's really important is the match itself. I did very well, if I do say so myself. I had Johnson so confused he didn't know what to do. I'm surprised he lasted the hour. He must be better than I gave him credit for being. Nonetheless, he is not important. I am important. And I did fantastically. In all modesty, I must admit this

was one of my best matches. The maneuvers I executed were brilliant. I was at the best of my ability. I had one plan which I decided on beforehand, and I was able to carry it out completely. I did very well."

One thing is for sure: Harley certainly did have one particular plan which he devised beforehand





Johnson grins as he hurls Race over the ropes and onto the hard concrete floor late in the match.

which he did carry out throughout the entire 60 minute battle. Unfortunately, it had little to do with wrestling as we know it. It was more like a game of hide and go seek!

Rocky Johnson has a very different perception of the events of the night in question. His view, while still not 100 percent confirmed, is generally accepted as what actually happened.

"No one was more surprised than me," says Johnson. "I had come there to take the title from Harley Race. I thought I could do it, just given the opportunity. However, I was not given that opportunity.

"When I wrestle a man, I expect him to wrestle me. I do not expect to have to go chasing him all over Creation to do battle. But that is what happened in this case. I think Race was out of the ring almost as much as he was in it. His running back and forth, in and out of the ring, was unbelievable. I could not understand what was happening.

"He was running everywhere, trying as hard as he could to avoid direct confrontation with me. And even when I was able to corner him, his only goal seemed to be slipping away from me as quickly as he could. If you think you've ever met

(Continued on page 54)

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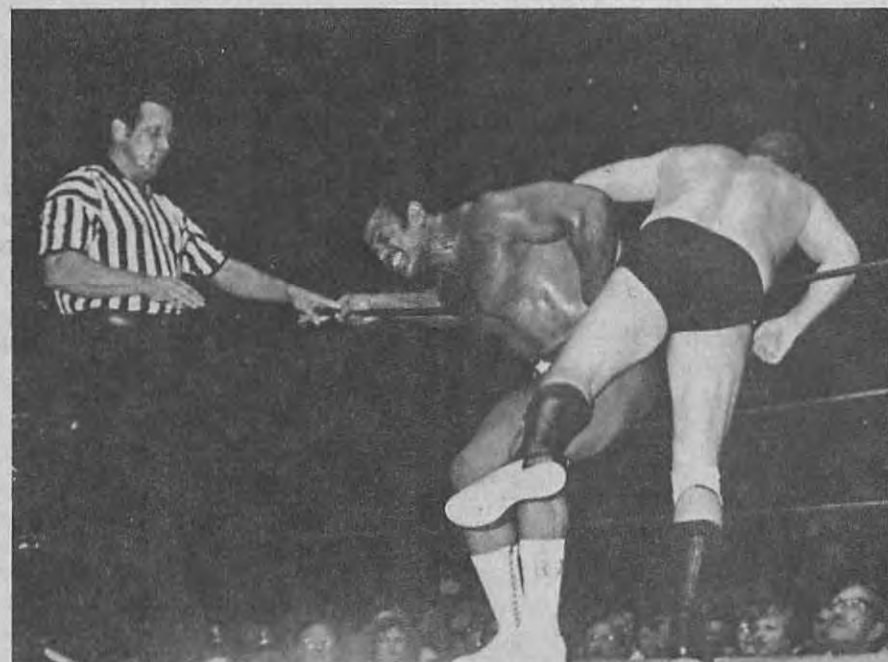
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# HARLEY RACE'S SHAMEFUL MATCH

(Continued from Page 53)



Above: Johnson snares Race's legs and drags the NWA champion across the canvas. It took all of Race's skill and ability to wriggle his way free. Below: Race lashes a knee hard into Johnson's middle, doubling Rocky over in agony. It was one of the few bright moments of the match for Race.



up with frustration, you can just imagine what I was going through. Those times I was able to catch him were the most exciting times in the match. However, I was not able to make those few precious moments last longer, which I truly regret. I wanted to wrestle him. I did not want to chase him. Unfortunately, I had to do the latter a lot more than the former!"

When Harley spoke of Johnson's pandering to the fans, he was applying his own twisted interpretation to the fact. In truth, Rocky did not deliberately court the fans' favor; he does not have to do that. It was clear they were on his side throughout the night, especially when Race's odd behavior is taken into account. Many spectators were furious at

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Harley for running from Johnson instead of standing firm and wrestling him. And these were Race's fans. Rocky's fans were even more furious. They knew their man had a good chance to beat the champion and take the title. Apparently, so did Harley, who avoided his opponent like the plague!

The pandering Race refers to is the fact that he was soundly booed for his behavior at the end of the match. Rocky was cheered for having made an effort to stop Harley from his wanderings all over the place. The fans were simply acknowledging who they believed to be right and who they thought to be wrong. Considering the circumstances, the fans had the right to make such a choice. And they choose Johnson.

"It isn't fair," Rocky believes, "that my title shot had to be wasted in this manner. It will be a while before I get another one. While I now realize I scare Race—why else would he have behaved in such a manner—this upsets me because it limits my chances to take the belt. Hell, I deserve another title shot as soon as possible just for what Race did to me in this one.

Apparently, the commissioners of the NWA agree with Johnson's interpretation of the events which transpired. They have decided to give Rocky another shot at Harley's title at some time in the near future. The exact date has not yet been set, but it will take place.

But what does Harley Race say about all this? "Actually," Race replies, "I don't much care what other people say. I know what I saw and I know what happened. I did quite well that night. And remember, I still have the belt."

He does have a point there—he does have the belt. And when all is said and done, no amount of discussion of the events could ever change that fact.

It simply is not open to interpretation. ☐

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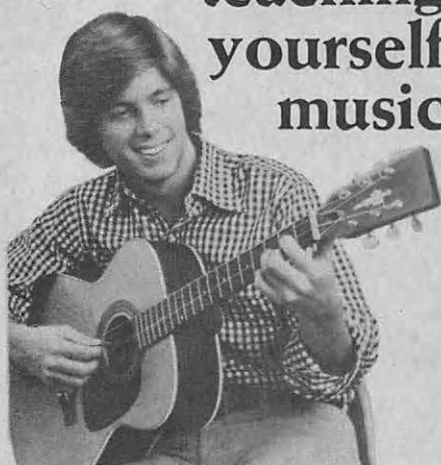
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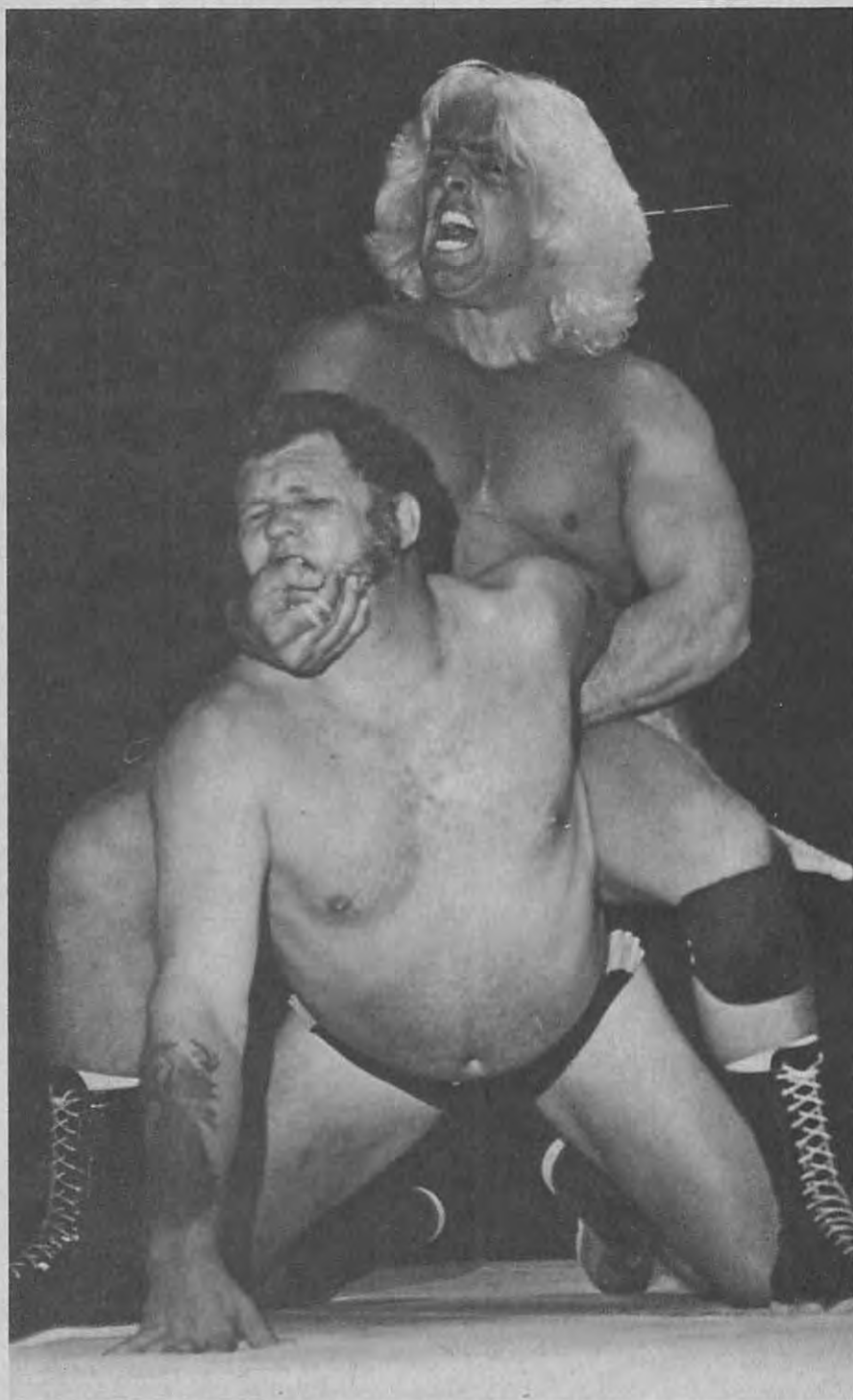
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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 18)



### WHAT FOOLS THESE WRESTLERS BE

Your story, "Ric Flair: 'I'll Never Give Harley Race a Rematch!'" (October 1977) showed me one thing: Harley Race is a fool. Any wrestler should know—and especially a champion—that Ric Flair is a

cunning rat.

He now has fooled Race into a second match against him. I don't like Harley Race, but I despise Ric Flair. Let's hope Flair does not win the title!

PAUL PALOMBO

Virginia Beach, Va.

(Continued on page 62)



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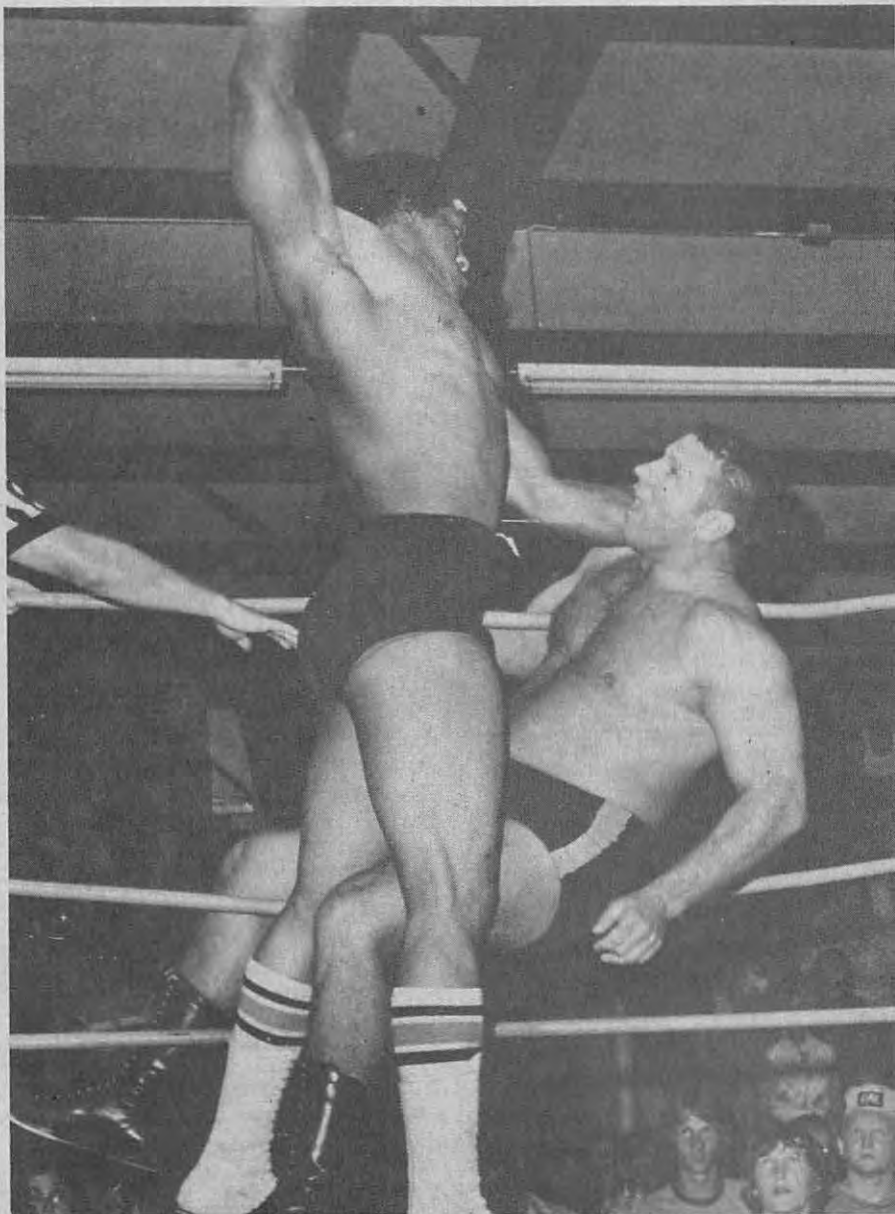
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# WHO'S INFERIOR

(Continued from Page 23)



Von Erich is snarled in the ropes, helpless to escape Tony's devastating punches. Atlas showed the avowed Nazi no mercy as Von Erich suffered the extent of Tony's rage and bitter hatred.

night. No man is another's  
natural conqueror, fool. And  
your battered body is proof of  
that. All your Nazi lies fell before  
my ability. And you'll never be  
able to forget it. You can bet  
none of the fans will."

Tony proceeded to walk  
through the cheering throng,  
head held high and eyes bright.  
This was the most important  
match of his life. More than a  
title, more than a fortune, this

was the match he had to win.

"When I was a kid," Tony said  
later in the dressing room, "I  
heard how Jesse Owens had  
shown Hitler up in front of the  
entire world. The Nazi dictator  
had promised his Master Race  
Aryans would conquer the  
world at the 1936 Olympics.  
Then Jesse Owens, a great  
black athlete, showed up his lies  
for nothing more than empty  
ravings of hate. The world saw





Waldo Von Erich is ruthless as he chokes Tony early in the match. It was one of the few moments when Von Erich enjoyed an advantage.

Hitler for what he was; all those not too consumed by hatred to see the truth, anyway. Owens used athletics to make the world a better place to live in. I always wanted to do the same.

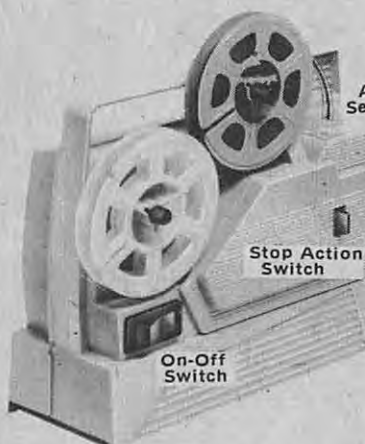
"Tonight, I followed in Jesse Owens' footsteps. I took on the Nazi and devastated him. He choked on his own hateful lying. Von Erich failed to spread his hatred."

That night, Tony went out and celebrated. The joy of dignity made his every move a pleasure. This was the greatest night of his life and all the world was his playground. Those who met him were immediately drawn into his circle of friends. The group soon swelled to over 30 revelers. It was one of the great victory celebrations in wrestling history.

Waldo Von Erich snuck out of the arena after everyone else left. He refuses to say what his late evening activities were. One can suppose the grappler ran home and hid under his bed. After all, the world is a harsh place for a Nazi who discovers there is no Master Race. ☐

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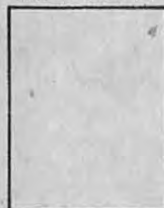
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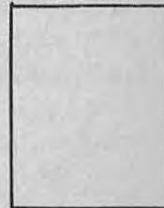
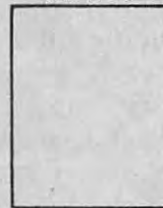
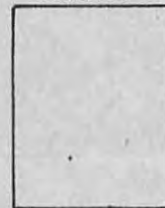
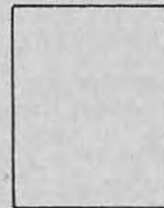
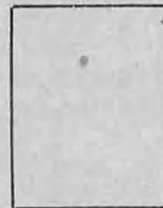
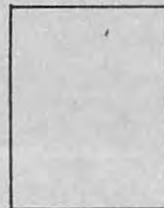
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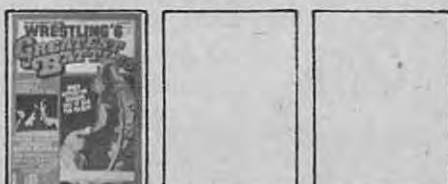


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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 56)

### ENOUGH THANKS ALREADY!

After reading your article, "It Was Our Pleasure, Gordon" (October 1977), which was related to another recent article, "Gordon Solie Named Wrestling Announcer of the Year" (August 1977), I just wanted to

fantastic job of it. And in your October article you said Superstar Graham, who usually only talks about himself, actually pulled out the first article on the air while he was being interviewed by Gordon and showed it to everyone.



tell you that I think your choice was the best you could have made.

Whenever I watch "Championship Wrestling from Florida," Gordon Solie is always there announcing and doing a

Gordon Solie must mean a lot to Graham for him to do such a thing.

Congratulation, Gordon. You deserve it!

JOHN BECKER  
Pompton Plains, N.J.



## IT HAD TO BE

At first I was upset when I read "Dusty Rhodes vs. Ernie Ladd: The Battle of Blood and Sorrow" (October 1977). But then I realized there was more



to this story than what I had gleaned on a superficial reading. Dusty and Ernie had to wrestle each other. They had to find out who was best.



But ultimately, this battle proved nothing at all. Neither man was able to prove anything. Who is better? That question is still to be decided.

ANDERSON HAYES  
Concord, Mass. □

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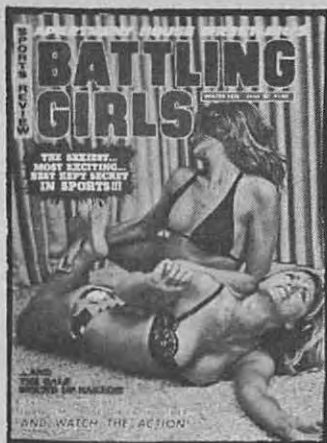
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## BRAWLING FOR DOLLARS

(Continued from Page 43)

like surprises?" the masked grappler asked gleefully.

Igor had no time to complain. Every moment was precious. He let the referee clasp the chain around his wrist and saw the other end fastened to his foe. The bell sounded. The carnage began.

It was a furious battle from the opening moments. Igor spurred by need clashed with Masked Superstar driven by cruelty. The masked grappler took the first advantage, forcing Igor to the canvas. Only incredible courage saved Igor from defeat.

Then it was Igor's turn. With unrestrained fury, he tore into his foe. Masked Superstar went reeling across the ring, only to be brought up short as the chain snapped him down. Igor went in for the kill only to receive a fast kick in his groin. The grappler struggled to get away from his ruthless foe.

For the next 20 minutes, fans were treated to the wildest brawl in history. The two men battled furiously, trying to get any advantage. All rules were forgotten as they became two warring beasts connected by



The Masked Superstar drags Mighty Igor around the ring. Fortunately, Igor was able to free himself.



metal. The action spilled over the ropes and came back onto the canvas. It was shock after shock, thrill after thrill. Despite the most brutal tactics Masked Superstar could execute, Igor came right back and struggled harder. It was a magnificent display of wrestling brilliance.

And then it happened. Igor smashed his heavy metal bracelet hard into the side of



Mighty Igor tries to prevent Masked Superstar from re-entering the ring. At this moment, the chain helped a lot.

Masked Superstar's head. The hated grappler sank to the canvas, his mind muddled and unable to function. A few moments later, Mighty Igor was declared the winner.

Igor hurried to collect his winner's share. He was up early the next morning to send the money to a friend in Paris. From there it was smuggled across Europe and into Poland. It arrived into the hands of the proper greedy authorities. A week later, Igor received a telegram from his cousin. The address was London, England.

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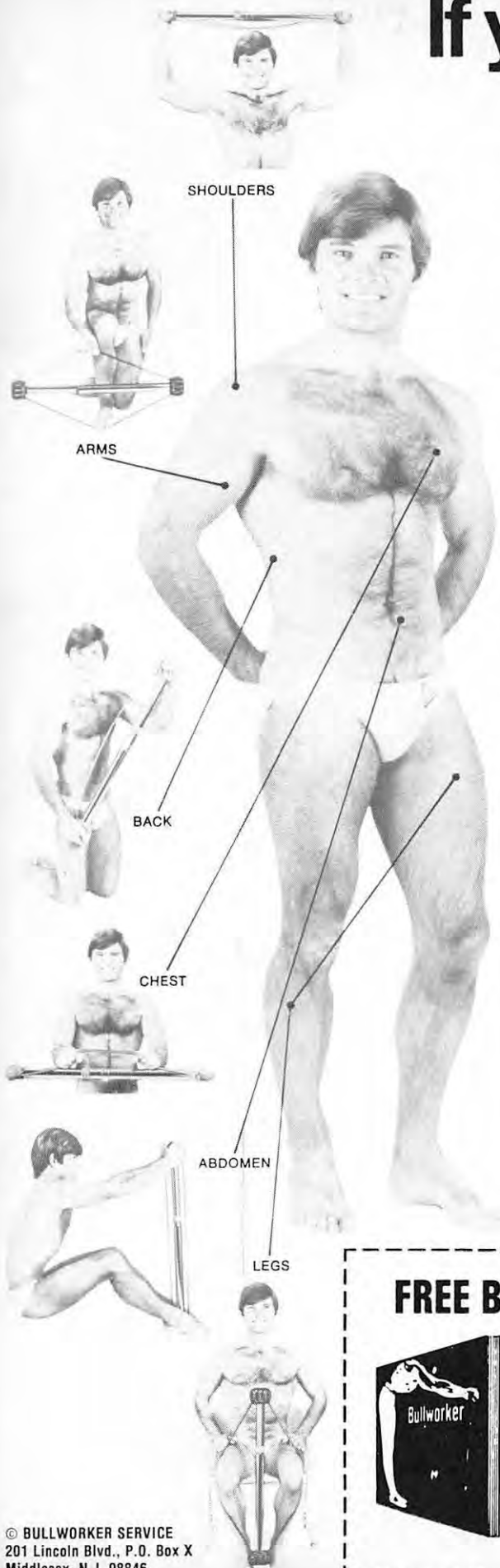
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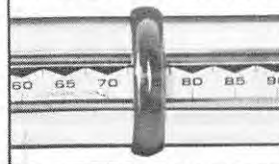
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